THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

REGISTERED No. 22.

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CALCUTTA:—MONDAY, MARCH 19, 1877.

Per Annum in Advance.
TOWN.....11-8.
MOFUSSIL .....13-4.

THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 12TH MARCH.

THE AMALGAMATION of Oudh with the North Western Provinces is proceeding apace. The Police of the two Provinces has been amalgamated. Subject to confirmation of the Government of India, Colonel Tyrwhitt, Inspector-General of Police in the North Western Provinces, is appointed to be also Inspector-General of Police in Oudh, Colonel Barrow being retained as Deputy Inspector-General for the latter province on his present pay.

MR. SOARES, a Portuguese Plenipotentiary, has arrived in Bombay from Lisbon. His mission is to conclude a new commercial treaty between the Government of India and the Governor-General of Portuguese Settlements in India. Mr. T. C. Hope is the Delegate of our Government.

THERE IS AT LAST a hope of Gya getting a Railway. A limited company, we hear, has been floated under instructions of Government for raising a capital of twenty lacs of rupees by shares of the value of one hundred rupees each. The great Gyalis ought to be able to subscribe the whole of the capital, as they will benefit the most.

A LONDON Company is prepared to supply Bombay and other cities in India with block ice, to be manufactured in each place, with the especial object of putting an end "to the inconvenience and suffering experienced through the ice famine." The capital has been subscribed, and the machinery will shortly be despatched. The prices of ice will, we are told, "reach the means of all consumers."

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL of Registration lately represented to the High Court that, under section 22 of the Indian Registration Act, VIII of 1871, a description of the property comprised in a document sufficient to identify it is necessary to its registration. When such description is omitted or is not entered in sufficient detail, much confusion and doubt may arise as to the identity of the land to which the document refers, and this doubt is indefinitely prolonged if the document is registered and copied in its imperfect state into the departmental registers. Accordingly he urged upon the High Court the necessity of supplying as full a description as possible in sale certificates and other documents sent for registration. In reply the High Court says that in the case of an ordinary conveyance, the purchaser can take care, when the deed is drawn up, that a proper description is furnished and inserted therein by his vendor, and if he has neglected this, the Registrar may reasonably refuse to register. But the Code is silent as to sort of description which must be given as to immoveable property not being estates paying revenue to Government. Under these circumstances, all that can be done is to direct judicial officers to instruct their subordinates to give as accurate a description as the nature of each case will admit of; and this will be done. The Hon'ble the Maharaja Narendrakrishna sought to remedy this defect by his amendment upon the Registration Bill as to what should be considered a "proper description of property," but he was snubbed by Mr. Cockerell.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT have introduced an Education Bill, the principal feature of which is the abolition of all School fees. Under the new bill, education will be gratuitous. Compulsion is not to be attempted until there are free Schools for all who wish to attend them.

RELIGIOUS TOLERATION IN ENGLAND. A correspondent of the *West Surrey Times* says that at a school entertainment at Hooley provided by subscription it was arranged that the children of those parents who were Dissenters should be excluded from the treat! Again a lady being requested to subscribe, asked if Dissenters' children would be permitted to come, if so she should have nothing to do with it. Of course the execrated Dissenters' poor little ones were not permitted to be present, so that the "lady" might subscribe.

TUESDAY, 13TH MARCH.

JAPAN HAS ABOLISHED its territorial aristocracy. It has capitalized the income of the landlords. The cost of this transaction amounts, according to the *Times'* Yokohama correspondent, to the immense sum of 28,000,000*l.*, to be paid in instalments within thirty years. That is to say, the Government will issue bonds for the respective capitalised values, upon which interest will be paid yearly, until the principal (the annual value of the pension multiplied by the number of years, five, six, or seven, as the case may be) is paid off.

AN ENGLISH NEWSPAPER is about to be brought out at St. Petersburg; it will be the first of its kind in the Russian capital. At Constantinople, which is very rich in journals, several newspapers are published in the English language.

ACCORDING to statistics of the book-trade, just published at Leipzig, the number of new publications in Germany, during 1876, was 13,356; that is, 840 more than in the previous years. An increase is chiefly remarkable in works referring to public instruction, jurisprudence and politics. Theological literature has steadily decreased of late.

THE UNITED STATES, already so well provided with public libraries, will presently have another, called the Lenox Library, which has been endowed by its founder, Mr. James Lenox, with the sum of 400,000 dollars, and with landed property of the value of 300,000 dollars. The Library, 200 feet long and 125 feet broad, is being built in white marble, and will contain 300,000 volumes. In 1870, the United States had 3,647 public libraries with 12,276,964 volumes. New York alone had 122 libraries. Philadelphia came next, with 102.

THERE IS SOME TALK of a leading colliery proprietor in England introducing Chinese cheap labour into the country. So China is invading the labor-market of many countries.

THE TOWN COUNCIL of Gotha, in Germany, which some time ago resolved upon permitting fire-burial has now also decreed the erection of a "columbarium." It will be set up in the projected new graveyard, and is to consist of an open peristyle connecting two halls, in one of which the dead bodies are to be temporarily deposited, whilst in the other the cremation will take place. The walls near this colonnade are to receive the urns with the ashes of the cremated; together with any votive tablets, or other sculptures, that may be added by the family or the friends of the departed.

AN EVENT, quite unprecedented in the history of the relations between China and foreign countries, has, says a London journal, recently occurred, viz.: the arrival of two Chinese officials of high rank as ambassadors to the Court of St. James's. They are His Excellency Kwoh-Sung-Tao and his Secretary Lin-Si-Hung, together with a suite of twenty officers of various grades. Dr. Macartney of the Nankin Arsenal accompanies the Celestials. Kwoh Surg-Tao become known in 1859 as having denounced the Tartar General Teng-Ko-Lin-Sin for having opened fire from the Taku forts on the vessel that was conveying the British Envoy, Sir Frederick Bruce, to Pekin. He has always been recognised as a bold, talented, and original man.

WEDNESDAY, 14TH MARCH.

M. CHARLES DE LESSEPS gives an interesting forecast of the probable financial results of the Suez Canal in 1876. In 1875 he said a net profit of 1,061,000 francs (42,440*l*) had been earned, which was sufficient for the payment of a dividend of fr. 88c per share. It is expected, however, that the free revenue of 1876 will amount to 1,500,000 or 16,000,000 francs (60,000*l* to 64,000*l*) and this increase of about 50 per cent. on the profits will admit of the payment of a dividend of about 2f 80c per share, which, added to the 25 francs of interest, gives a revenue of about 28 francs per share. The increase in the traffic receipts for 1876, as compared with those for the previous year, amounted to 1,100,000 francs (44,000*l*), while the working expenses had actually diminished. On the working of the canal therefore, there has been an increased profit not of 50, but of fully 100 per cent.

THE NEW PAPER the *Truth* has a clever essay on "Lying." It thus begins: "Lying has a most respectable claim to consideration, not only on account of the universality, but also of the antiquity of the art. Adam had not long delved, nor Eve spun, before the lady told a most unblushing falsehood, when questioned respecting an apple which she had pilfered; whilst the gentleman, who had greedily devoured the stolen goods, prevaricated about them with startling audacity. Mendacity having thus received the *imprimatur* of our first parents, has ever since maintained a powerful hold, irrespective of time, clime, and fashion, upon the descendants of the primeval pair." So lying came into fashion from the beginning of the world.

THE JOURNAL OF HEALTH kindly gives the following as some of the "sure cures for rheumatism:"—"Rub with chloroform liniment; sleep with your head towards the north; iodide of potassium; lemon juice; sago tea; wear sulphur in your shoes; hard rubbing; wear silk; wear flannel; wear buckskin; exercise and keep it off; keep as quiet as possible; water cures; pray fervently; do not eat meat; do not eat eggs or potatoes; eat anything you please; drink nothing but beer; do not drink anything but whiskey; do not drink anything at all; bathe in hot water with pearl-ash in it; bathe in cold water frequently; do not bathe at all until you are nearly well; drink brandy; brandy is bad for rheumatism; go to the South of France; to Mexico; to the Azores; to South America; wear a horse chesnut in your left-hand breeches pocket; wear a potatoe in the other; wrap joints with cotton and cover with oiled silk; take a quart of alcohol with a dozen lemons in it; read Job; do not swear" Who can doubt the efficacy of medicine after this?

THE FOLLOWING is a statement of the rainfall in London during the past year:—

1876.	Inches.	Number of days on which rain fell.
January	0.58	5
February	1.90	15
March	2.54	15
April	1.35	8
May	0.87	6
June	1.02	7
July	0.57	6
August	1.93	18
September	2.09	21
October	1.83	13
November	2.59	15
December	5.86	21
Total for the year	28.09	140

MR. ROBERT LANDELLS, from many years the special artist of the *Illustrated London News*, is dead. He witnessed all the great campaigns of the last 20 years, including the Crimean, the Danish, Austro-German, and Franco-German wars. He received three medals from foreign governments in appreciation of his artistic merits, including a war medal presented by the Crown Prince of Prussia in special recognition of his courage.

THE LAST NUMBER of the *Indian Medical Gazette* contains two interesting letters from Babu Shamlal Mullick L.M.S. In one case he tried with complete success by using Hypodermic Injection of Chloral Hydrate in the collapsed stage of Cholera. The other was a case of Puerperal Tetanus treated with Chloral Hydrate and Bromide of Potassium. The remarks of Babu Shamlall Mullick are very valuable, which we give below:

Remarks.—Bromide of potassium in combination with chloral hydrate produced a marked effect on the system. The temperature of the body never rose above 104°4, and did not interfere with the administration of chloral. It is generally observed that *puerperal tetanus* is very frequently fatal, but the later the attack the more hopeful is the prognosis. An attack within a week after delivery is nearly always fatal, but when it comes on 15 days after delivery there is great hope of recovery if early and prompt measures are adopted. This case was attacked on the 16th day after delivery, and the cause was ascribed to irritation in the womb, from the retention of clots of blood, &c. in that organ after the sudden cessation of the lochial discharge, consequent on cold. She took about one ounce five drachms and one scruple of chloral, and about the same quantity of bromide.

We hope the Babu will follow up this spirit of enquiry and observation, and other Assistant Surgeons will follow his example. It is much to be regretted that so few of our countrymen bring to practical use in after life what they learn, and learn with so much credit at the school and the college.

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA has issued the following Resolution in the Public Works Department:

Dated Fort William February 23rd 1877.

"Resolution.—It has been found necessary to transfer temporarily a number of Engineers and subordinates to Madras and Bombay for the supervision of Famine Relief works. The names of these Officers are detailed in the following

lists of the Provinces and Branches from which they have been transferred. His Excellency the Governor General in Council desires that their interests shall not suffer from their temporary absence on this pressing and important work, but that they may receive promotion both permanent and temporary on their own lists precisely as they would have done had they remained present. His Excellency in Council would draw particular attention to this matter. In 1874 complaints reached the Government of India that the proper claims of Officers detached to Bengal for similar work were overlooked. It is difficult to pronounce an opinion on such complaints, but the Governor General in Council desires that every precaution may be taken to guard against the recurrence of similar complaints. The Government of Madras or Bombay, as the case may be, should be informed of any promotions that may be given to the absentees in order to regulate their pay."

THURSDAY, 15TH MARCH.

WITH REFERENCE to the loyal services rendered by Bengalis to the State during the Sepoy Mutiny, a correspondent calls our attention to an omission, which we committed last week. Our correspondent says that whether in personal labor or by supply of rations and other necessaries to the troops, or by obeying the calls of the local officers, Babu Gooroodas Mitter of Benares did all that lay in his power, and his services were handsomely acknowledged by the local authorities, Mr. Tucker and Mr. Gubbins among others.

WE ARE REQUESTED to mention that Babu Bhobanichurn Mookerjea proposes to revive the *Shachittra Bharat Sunqbad* or the Illustrated Indian News in Bengali. Among other things he intends to give an account *seriatim* of the rajas, nobles, zemindars, native high officials, literary men and editors. With this view he invites information regarding the career of distinguished native gentlemen from themselves or their friends and relatives with a photograph or lithographed likeness of the persons described. Such communications may be addressed to the editor in Noyanchand Dutt's Lane, Calcutta.

WE HAVE had before us for some time past a Bengali book entitled *Valmiki and his Times* by Babu Profullachunder Banerjea. The book evinces considerable research and critical power, and deserves the patronage of the reading public.

WE HAVE received from Bombay a magazine entitled "Studies in Indian Philosophy." We have had time only to take a cursory glance at it, and are glad to be able to say that it does great credit to its conductors. Educated Indians ought to co-operate in making the magazine a success.

A FRIEND writing from Bombay says:

"The most engrossing subject at present is the famine. Its narratives are before you. Colonel Kennedy has acted very energetically. The second subject of importance is the agitation against early marriage just set on foot in this Presidency. In the presence of the High Priest of the Vaishnavas, two discussions took place between reformers and respectable orthodox shastres. The swamee has a great reputation for learning. He has about him a galary of learned Pandits. He exercises a great influence on the minds of the people. He acknowledged that our arguments were sound. These discussions are only preliminary. We have secured the assent of leading gentlemen of Gujerath. We intend to move our Government to pass a law against the custom of early marriage. I believe the petition to Government will be largely signed. We have divided the subject into the early marriage of boys and that of girls. We have taken up the question affecting the first. We seek to move our Government to restrict marriageable age to 20 years of age. At present males are married from 5 to 60 years of age."

But a reform of this kind ought to come from within and not from without. Legislative pressure cannot be healthy.

A CORRESPONDENT writes as follows:

"The public of Sibsagor have long felt the want of a better qualified pleader or graduate in Law; I therefore take this opportunity to assure the graduates in Law and tell them that if any of them come to Sibsagor they will have professional business of the place and they will be well paid for their labor; and I also tell them that the few pleaders we have in this district belong to the old class and consequently do not come up to our expectations."

A KRISHNAGUR Correspondent thus writes about Mr. Richardson, the retiring Judge of Nuddea:

"Mr. Richardson was a Haileybury man and served in this country for upwards of 29 years. Though some what of brusque manners, he was an exemplary Christian and during his incumbency as the Session Judge of this place, for nearly 5 years, he discharged his duties most conscientiously and satisfactorily. Though he was not possessed of brilliant parts still he did his work well. The bar presented him a farewell address from which I give the following extract: "In discharging your multifarious and difficult duties you have always steadily endeavoured to arrive at the truth and your decisions have given satisfaction to ourselves and suitors. You have always had the good of the district at heart, and in all that concerns the real welfare of the country in which you have spent the best part of your life. You have ever been ready to lend a helping hand." The local public fully endorse those sentiments.

WE HAVE RECEIVED the prospectus of a new weekly projected by Babu Nesnychand Seal of Chinsura. The articles of faith of the new journal are fair and promising. We wish the projector every success.

FRIDAY, 16TH MARCH.

WE HAVE had before us for some weeks past a book entitled "The *Elements of Algebra*," for Entrance Students, by P. Ghosh, Lecturer, Cathedral Mission College. The book has been prepared with great labor and care, and will prove useful to those, for whom it is intended.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL MAGAZINE has a kindly notice of the services of Pundit Nain Singh, who was deputed by the Government of India to explore the regions of Central Asia. He pursued his work amid many difficulties and privations.

THE FOLLOWING telegrams have been received by the morning papers regarding the situation in Cabul:

Lahore, March 9.—The Russians, it is reported, are concentrating to attack Merv. Shahjehan Turkomans are fortifying Merv, and have twenty thousand men to oppose the Russians with another brigade which has arrived at Kurrum. The Governor reports to the Amir that he is now in a condition to meet any contingency which may arise.

11.—At a great State Durbar held by the Amir, the opinions expressed preponderated in favor of a trimming policy between England and Russia. One man warned the Amir against the Russians as perfidious and over-reaching but the Amir said he could decide on nothing till the return of Noor Mahomed Shah.

13.—Ata Mahommed, the British Agent at Cabul, has left Peshawur on indefinite leave for Cabul at once. Kohat affairs are looking ill. A deputation of the pass Afridees returned without having come to a settlement. Enforcement of rigorous blockade believed to be necessary.

14.—A General feeling of uneasiness prevails among the Sirdars at Cabul. The Amir himself cannot disguise his anxiety at the protraction of the Conference, the detention of Noor Mohamed Shah at Peshawur, and the unsatisfactory accounts sent by him. The Amir's exertions to rouse the fanaticism of the tribes and to win them over to his interest have been stimulated of late through his apprehensions of the negociations resulting unfavorably.

NEWS FROM the Frontier is to the effect that the Pass Afridees have entirely submitted, agreeing to all the terms imposed by Government. A substantial road is to be made through the Kohat Pass, and compensation is to be given for depredations that can be traced home to any particular tribe. This sudden termination of an ugly business is very gratifying.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY will leave Calcutta towards the close of the month, proceeding to Naini Tal, where Sir G. Couper has put Government House at his service. There he will probably remain till the repairs and additions to Peterhoff are completed. Part of Lord Lytton's family will leave Calcutta for Simla on the 24th instant.

MR. J. MONRO, Civil and Sessions Judge, Nuddea, has been appointed Inspector General of Police. He is a man of great energy, and will make a capital head of the Police. We only hope that he will not push his vigour beyond the law.

THERE IS a high class English school at Digaputtia, which is much liked by the people of the neighbouring villages, but they cannot avail themselves of it for the difficulties they experience in securing cheap lodging homes in its neighbourhood. We are glad to learn that Raja Promothonath Rai Bahadur of Diggaputtia proposes to remove these difficulties by erecting a boarding house or hostel at his own expense whithin a convenient distance of the school.

WE HAVE RECEIVED a copy of a petition to the Governor of Madras in Council by the marasidars of the village of Villum in the Tranjore district of the Madras Presidency. There is a large tank in this village, which as well as five other smaller tanks and four fresh-water wells receive their supply of water from a neighbouring hill, the smaller tanks and wells are fed by a channel which draws its supply from the big tank. The Collector of the district, Mr. Thomas, has converted the big tank into a fish preserve and shut up all channels of communication by which this tank was fed. The consequence is that there is a practical failure of water supply to the minor tanks and wells, and hence the distress and water famine to the ryots.

SATURDAY, 17TH MARCH.

IT APPEARS from a telegram received by the morning papers that the separation of the Frontier from the Punjab has been definitely decided upon. Sir Lewis Pelly becomes Chief Commissioner of the Frontier, remaining in charge of the political administration of the same, until the separation actually takes place.

LAST NIGHT we had a thunder-storm and hail-storm in Calcutta.

THE BOMBAY GAZETTE charges the Government of India with *suppressio veri*. Our contemporary says that the Secretary of Sate overruled some time ago the decision of Lord Northbrook's Government to take away from the Government of Bombay the power of sanctioning without the permission of the authorities at Calcutta the construction of any public work costing more than Rs. 10,000. Our contemporary believes that the despatch conveying these instructions has not yet been formally communicated to the Bombay Government, though it must have reached Calcutta some time ago. The writer wonders if Lord Lytton can be aware of the tricks played in his name.

NATIVE OPINION protests against the recent festivities at Baroda in honor of the Assumption of the Imperial title by Her Majesty the Queen. Our contemporary is justly angry that Baroda should be feasting, while Bombay has been fasting.

THE COMMITTEE of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce have again applied to the Bengal Government on the subject of the Hooghly Bridge tolls. They repeat in strong terms their opinion that the terminal fee should be entirely removed and not continued, as is proposed, on a reduced scale.

A CORRESPONDENT brings to our notice the embarrassed condition of the Zemindars of Saorapooly and recommends that relief may be afforded to them under the Encumbered Estates Act. There is no such Act for Bengal, but there is a clause in the new Wards Estates' Bill, which provides for such relief, and if the proprietors choose they may avail themselves of that clause as soon as the Bill becomes law and place their estates under the Court of Wards.

WE HAVE RECEIVED the last number of the *Indian Charivari*. It is steadily improving in quality under the new management.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

Constantinople, March 12.—Montenegro persists in her demands for cession of territory and seaport before signing peace with Turkey.

London, March 13—— In the house of Lords, Lord Derby, replying to a question, said the motive for recalling Captain Burnaby from Khiva was in pursuance of our general policy and not from any promptings on the part of Russia. A pamphlet has appeared from the pen of Mr. Gladstone entitled: "Lessons in Massacre."

Rome, March 13.—THE Pope held a Consistory yesterday, at which His Holiness nominated, among others, Arch-Bishop Howard, Cardinal.

Berlin March.—13—At the sitting of the German Parliament yesterday, Prince Bismarck made a speech complaining of a decline in national feeling and of the particularist tendencies of the Federal States.

Constantinople, March 13—THE opening of the Turkish Parliament fixed for the 12th has been adjourned till the 19th instant.

London, March 14.—A Cabinet Council was held yesterday to consider fresh proposals made by Russia. Russia proposes that if the Powers will agree to sign a protocol urging upon the Porte the acceptance of the original programme presented at the Conference, she will act with them and demobilize her forces. Lord Derby has promised early statement of the decision arrived at by the Cabinate.

Latest advices from the Cape state that peace has been concluded between the Transvaal republic and Secocoeni, the Kaffir chief, the latter having submitted.

London, March 15.—Sir Louis Mallet, Sir A. Kennedy and Mr. Mulholland have been appointed Special Commissioners to negotiate a New Treaty of Commerce between France and England.

London. March 15.—General Ignatieff has arrived from Paris. It is generally reported that England has accepted the principle of the protocol presented by Russia, but with the introduction of certain amendments by which phrases which would bind our future action are avoided. In the House of Commons Lord George Hamilton replying to a question said that the treaty concluded with Khelat was a revival of the Treaty concluded with that country in 1854, but adapted to present circumstances. An aggressive policy, he said, was not intended.

Constantinople March 15.—The Porte has rejected the conditions of peace proposed by Montenegro, which comprised cession of territory and a seaport on the Adriatic.

IN A RECENT examination in Roman Law, Lincoln's Inn, there were sixty-four candidates, who passed. The first place was awarded to an Englishman, the second to a Brahmin, and the third to a Chinese. Mr. Ganpat Sarvotham Mankar, Bombay, passed in the examination in English Law, and Womesh Chunder Ghose, Calcutta, in the examination in Roman Law. Mr. Wassudeo Krishna Bhairyan B.A., L.L.B., who was elected as a Sir Mutguldass Travelling Fellow by the Bombay University, has been called to the bar.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals: 1. General report on the Topographical Surveys of India and of the Surveyor General's Department for 1875-76. 2. Records of the Geological Survey of India, Vol X, Part I. 1877. 3. Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of British India for January 1877, and a comparative Statement of the trade of ten months of 1874-75, 1875-76 and 1876-77. 4. Subdakalpa Druma or the Sanskrit Dictionary of the late Sir Raja Radhakant Deb Bahadoor, Vol 6 No. 14 and Vol 7 No. 1. 5. The Saddarshana-Chintanika or Studies in Indian Philosophy Vol I, No. 2. 6. Homœopathic Treatment of Cholera in Bengali by Radhakant Ghosal. 7. The Legal Companion, a diglot publication, by Kumud Nath Dutt, Sherishtadar, Board of Revenue Calcutta, No. 1 to 3. 8. The Kusum, an illustrated monthly Journal in Bengali, Vol I, No. I. 9. The Bharut Sramajibi or the Indian Workman Vol III No. 35. 10. Budget Statement for 1877-78. 11. Descriptive account of Cinchona Febrifuge. By Dr. King. 12. Journal of the National Indian Association. No. 74; February 1877. 13. The City of Sunshine, a novel. By Alexander Allardyce. In three volumes, Blackwood and sons, Edinburgh and London.

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A PUBLIC DINNER will be given to Sir Arthur Hobhouse on the eve of his departure from this country. The compliment is well deserved.

BABU PEARY MOHUN MOOKERJEA, son of Babu Joykissen Mookerjea, has been appointed a member of the Epidemic Fever Commission, in the room of Babu Shibchunder Dev, who owing to ill-health is unable to act.

WE ARE GLAD to notice the revival of the Lucknow *Standard* as a weekly paper. We wish this renewed attempt every success.

THE READER will be glad to notice an advertisement in another column announcing the revival of the *Banga Darsana*.

NOTICE.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE

Lecture by the Very Rev. Father Lafont S. J. on *Thursday 22nd March* next, at 7½ P. M. *Subject*: Reflection of Light on curved subjects, and also reflection.

Rules of Admission to Lectures of the Association.

Admitted invariably by Ticket.

Donors admitted free to all Lectures. Subscribers prepaying for the year or the month admitted free to all the lectures of the year or the month respectively.

Admission Fee for non-subscribers—*Annas* 8 for a single Lecture: Or Rs. 3 in advance for 10 consecutive Lectures.

Tickets to be had of the clerk at the office of the Association between 10½ A. M., and 4½ P. M., (Sundays excepted), and on the day of Lecture up to the time of Lecture.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR,
Honorary Secretary

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 1877.

THE BUDGET.

SIR John Strachey has followed a very convenient plan in delivering his Financial Statement for 1877-78. He has given all the details in a Minute and discussed all important principles in a Speech, which he read before the Council on Thursday last. The two taken together supply most valuable information. The Minute has been well arranged, and all those particulars, which used formerly to appear in the Budget speech or statement, have been transferred to it. The Speech is to all intents and purposes a speculative essay upon the future of Indian Finance. In so far as the Finance Minister discusses the past or the present, he vindicates or rather glorifies the financial policy of Lord Mayo's Government, of which as the reader is aware he was the guiding spirit, and by implication condemns much of what was done by Lord Northbrook's Government. He has performed his task with great ability, frankness, and boldness. He has not attempted to conceal any thing; he openly says, "I feel that the statement which I have made to-day is open to this general objection, that it says comparatively little of what has actually been done, and says a great deal of what may be done in the future." He adds, "I may be told that it is seldom wise for a Government to go out of its way to pledge itself to measures which it intends to adopt hereafter, and which may turn out, after all, to be impracticable. Under our present circumstances, I do not think that this is applicable to us. A distinct conception having been formed of some at least of the great objects at which our financial policy ought to aim, it seems to me highly desirable that a clear and public statement of those objects should be made. The Government may thus hope to obtain the greatest advantage which an honest Government can desire,—a full examination and discussion of its proposed policy: such discussion will either help it to carry that policy into effect, or will enable it to avoid errors into which it might otherwise fall." We commend this frankness. The public have now an opportunity of discussing the measures contemplated by Government, and the declaration of Sir John Strachey gives a guarantee that they will not be carried into effect without a full consideration of outside criticisms.

Sir John Strachey assures the public that the "finances of India are, on the whole, in a very prosperous and satisfactory state." This we must confess is a bold statement. The national debt of India in 1811-12, was 28 crores in round numbers, in 1856-57, which practically brought the rule of the East India Company to a close, it amounted to 60 crores, and in 1877-78 it will rise to 133 crores, shewing an increase of 105 crores in sixty-six years. The suppression of the Mutiny and consolidation of the empire cost about 46 crores, but the vigorous financial measures taken by Mr. Laing extinguished the debt by about 6 crores in 1862-63, and so long as an English financier was in charge of the Treasury no addition was made to the debt, on the contrary some reductions were effected, but from 1865-66 the debt again began to rise, with the exception of 1872-73, the first year of Lord Northbrook's budget. We give below the loan figures of the years from 1864-65:

Year		Amount	Year		Amount
1864-65	...	90,206,260	1872-73	...	107,349,968
1865-66	...	92,356,261	1873-74	...	109,410,430
1866-67	...	94,096,196	1874-75	...	120,288,614
1867-68	...	95,309,123	1875-76	...	123,148,000
1868-69	...	102,795,343	1876-77	...	126,872,009
1869-70	...	106,384,359	1877-78	...	133,372,000
1871-72	...	108,927,876			

It will be seen from the above that within the space of 13 years the Government will have borrowed no less than 43 crores. It is true that within these years the country has been visited with two dire famines, to provide for which it was obliged to raise loans—we do not take into account the famines of 1865-66 and 1868-69, inasmuch as no debt was contracted to meet these disasters. Now, taking the famine expenditure proper of the two famines at 10 crores, we have a balance of 33 crores, which have been raised to cover expenditure chiefly for public works. Is this yearly increment of the national debt a sign of national prosperity? For our part we think otherwise. On the other hand look to the income of the State. In 1861-62 the revenue amounted to £39,285,731, and it is estimated for 1877-78 at £52,19,27,000, or an excess of 13 millions in 17 years. The resources of the country are thus elastic enough, but what does the increase of the revenue avail, when it has been necessary for the Government to borrow 43 millions in 13 years? And yet we are told that the finances of India are in a very prosperous and satisfactory state. Money we certainly have, but there is something radically wrong in the administration of the finances when the Government cannot keep its expenditure within its income. Such being the case we cannot but demur to the statement that the finances are in a very prosperous and satisfactory state. If a private individual, notwithstanding a large and increasing income, goes on borrowing year after year, whether for improvement or for any thing else, it cannot justly be said that his finances are in a very prosperous and satisfactory state.

We now turn to the figures of the present Budget. Sir John Strachey says that the accounts of 1875-76 show a surplus on the ordinary account of £1,668,882. If the extraordinary expenditure on Pubic Works be included, this surplus becomes a deficit of £2,601,740. In 1876-77 a deficit is expected on the ordinary account of £2,278,300. Including the extraordinary expenditure the deficit is £6,078,300. The result of the ordinary account is worse than the original estimate by £2,422,300. This is due to the famine in Madras and Bombay, which is now expected to cost in loss of revenue and in direct expenditure £5,250,000. Of this sum £3,100,000 belong to 1876-77, and £2,150,000 to 1877-78. If there had been no famine, there would be, we are told, a surplus on the ordinary account of £624,800,000, which exceeds the original estimate by £480,800. But this surplus is fictitious inasmuch as it has been practically swelled by the loans of past years. It is estimated that the Revenues of 1877-78 will amount to £52,192,700 and the Expenditure to £56,442,400. Thus we expect a deficit in 1877-78 of £4,249,700,of which, however, £3,628,000 has been granted for the construction of Extraordinary Public works. Excluding this outlay, we expect a Deficit on the Ordinary Account of £621,700. The cost of the Famine in 1877-78 is estimated at £2,150,000. Sir John, however, explains: "I am obliged, however, at once, to dispel the flattering impression that might be gathered from this statement, by the observation that one of the indirect consequences of the Famine is the reduction of the entry under the adjusting Head *Loss by Exchange* by an amount that I cannot estimate at less than £700,000. There would, however, be a set-off to this, if there were no Famine, in a lower charge for interest by perhaps £100,000. Thus I am led to think that, but for the Famine, our Estimates, as they stand, would have shown a surplus of £928,300. But this really represents the facts in too favorable a light, because the Expenditure on Extraordinary Public Works includes a sum of £1,206,323 spent on works which will not be remunerative, and which, as I shall explain further on, ought, therefore, in my opinion to be looked on as ordinary. If these charges had been so treated, the estimated Surplus of £928,300 would have been converted into a Deficit of £278,028. It will also be seen, immediately, that I am estimating Opium at net £250,000. more than it was estimated for the current year, and also that the causes of apprehension in regard to the value of silver are unhappily by no means removed." The following statement gives the estimate of income for 1877-78:

Revenue	Budget Estimate, 1877-78.	Budget Estimate 1877-78 compared with Regular Estimate 1876-77. Increase.	Decrease.
Civil.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Land Revenue ...	20,94,08,000	93,45,000	...
II.—Tributes and Contributions ...	69,79,000	...	71,000
III.—Forest	57,93,000	...	3,28,000
IV.—Excise on Spirits and Drugs ...	2,56,17,000	7,42,000	...
V.—Assessed Taxes ...	...	...	2,000
VI.—Customs	2,48,69,000	1,77,000	...
VII.—Salt	6,34,30,000	...	...
VIII.—Opium	8,61,00,000	...	56,68,000
IX.—Stamps	2,89,65,000	3,24,000	...
X.—Mint	17,50,000	...	3,93,000
XI.—Post Office ...	82,59,000	2,21,000	...
XII.—Telegraph ...	31,55,000	...	1,66,000
XIII.—Law and Justice..	84,27,000	3,44,000	...
XIV.—Police.	7,00,000	44,000	...
XV.—Marine	20,19,000	...	67,000
XVI.—Education ...	10,19,000	7,000	...
XVII.—Interest ...	51,25,000	...	74,000
XVIII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation, Retired and Compassionate Allowances ...	59,74,000	6,000	...
XIX.—Gain by exchange	38,79,000	...	7,48,000
XX.—Miscellaneous ...	27,93,000	...	9,76,000
Total ...	49,42,59,000	27,14,000	...
Army	89,20,000	...	1,86,000
Public Works, Ordinary..	19,95,000	6,54,000	...
Irrigation	55,16,000	5,09,000	...
State Railways	67,48,000	30,52,000	...
Provincial Contributions.	41,51,000	39,66,000	...
Balances of Local Governments decreased ...	3,38,000	...	3,49,000
Grand Total ...	52,19,27,000	98,60,000	...
Deficit, excluding Public Works extraordinary ..	62,17,000	...	1,65,66,000
Deficit	4,24,97,000	...	1,32,86,000

We give below the estimate of expenditure for 1877-78:

EXPENDITURE.	Budget Estimates 1877-78.	Budget Estimates, 1877-78, compared with Regular Estimate, 1876-77. Increased.	Decrease
Civil.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1.—Interest on Funded and Unfunded Debt ...	5646500	2358000	...
2.—Interest on Service Funds and other Accounts ...	3596000	...	265000
3.—Refunds and Drawbacks...	3060000	150000	...
4.—Land Revenue ...	25066000	...	32000
5.—Forest ...	4183000	...	206000
6.—Excise ...	1071000	...	12000
7.—Customs ..	1933000	...	18000
8.—Salt ...	5187000	322000	...
9.—Opium ...	23600000	...	4418000
10.—Stamps ..	982000	5000	...
11.—Mint ...	892000	...	405000
12.—Post Office ...	8943000	306000	...
13.—Telegraph ...	4955000	37000	...
14.—Administration ...	14232000	..	360000
15.—Minor Departments ...	3228000	95000	...
13.—Law and Justice ..	32944000	373000	..
17.—Police ...	20950000	...	224000
18.—Marine ...	5447000	...	217000
19.—Education ...	7413000	68000	...
20.—Ecclesiastical ...	1666000	3000	..
21.—Medical ..	5989000	65000	...
22.—Stationery and Printing..	4142000	49000	...
23.—Political Agencies ...	3960000	...	1371000
24.—Allowances and Assignments under Treaties and Engagements ...	16735000	...	54000
25.—Civil Furlough and Absentee Allowances in England.	2381000	...	25000
26.—Superannuation, Retired and Compassionate Allowances.	18127000	122000	...
27.—Loss by exchange ...	16000000	...	5351000
28.—Miscellaneous ...	2026000	...	401000
Famine Relief ...	14250000	..	4860000
Total Civil ...	309423000	..	14266000
Army ...	162386000	309000	...
Public Works Ordinary ..	39696000	...	1226000
State Railways ...	4830000	2170000	...
Land and Supervision (Guaranteed Railways) ..	780000	...	132000
Guaranteed Interest, less net		5807000	...
Traffic Receipts ...	10000000	626000	...
Balances of local Governments Increased ..	1029000		

Total Ordinary	... 52814000	...	6706000
Public Works Extraordinary ..	36280000	...	1720000
Grand Total ..	564424000	...	8426000
Surplus, Excluding Public Works Extraordinary	...	...	...	..
Gross Guaranteed Interest	... 47182000	81630	..
Net Traffic Receipts	... 37182000	..	5726000
Guarant ed Interest, less net Traffic Receipts	... 10000000	5807000	...

The leading features of the Budget are thus summarized. Arrangements have been completed with the Governments of *Bengal*, the *North-Western Provinces*, and *Oudh* for the transfer to provincial uses of the Revenue from *Excise, Stamps, Law and Justice*, and some other items, and to provincial management of the greater part of the Civil Services now imperial. The immediate saving to the Imperial Treasury by these arrangements is £101,700, besides the guarantee of the estimated normal increase of the transferred revenue amounting to £44,000. Moreover, the Governments of *Bengal* and the *North-Western Provinces* have been required to make good to the Imperial Treasury the interest on the capital expended upon canals and local railways in those provinces. The estimated contributions on this account in 1877-78 are from *Bengal* £ 274, 700, and from the *North-Western Provinces* £ 00,000 so that the Estimates of the year are better in consequence of these several arrangements than they would have been without them, by £520,4000. Similar arrangements will in due time be proposed to the other Governments. No fresh taxation is proposed except the provincial taxation which may be necessitated by these measures, which is estimated not to exceed £325,000. The sum of £3,628,000 is granted for Extraordinary Public Works in 1877-78. A net sum of £3.724,000 was borrowed in 1876-77, being more by £746,000 than Sir W. Muir estimated It is estimated that the Government may borrow net £6,500,000 in 1877-78, of which the Government of India intends to move the Secretary of State to obtain power from Parliament to borrow £3,750,000 in England, and to borrow, itself, £2,750,000 in India, *viz*, £250,000 from His Highness the Maharajah Sindhia for the Gwalior Railway and £2,500,000 from other sources. The entire addition to the Public Debt during the two years is estimated to be £10,224,000, against which the *Famine* is estimated to cost £5,250,000, and *Public Works Extraordinary* £7,428,000, *Guaranteed Railways* will draw from the Treasuries £1,833,100, and about £1,130,000 will be lent to public bodies. The Government has submitted to a reduction of the balances at its credit by £4,361,200, and has thus been able to provide for these several objects without borrowing the full amount. The balances at credit of the Government of India in India are expected to be, on the 31st March 1877, £11,539,700 and on the 31st March 1878, £12,500,000. We discuss separately the general principles of the financial policy raised in the Budget speech of the Finance Minister.

DECENTRALIZATION.

THE pivot, upon which Sir John Strachey's Budget turns, may be said to be the decentralization scheme, which first came into operation under Lord Mayo's Government, or strictly speaking under his own inspiration. When it was first introduced we found fault with it not that the principle on which it was based was not sound, but that it fell far short of public expectations. It tended to increase the responsibilities of the local Governments without giving them adequate resources. As we wrote in January 1871, "it has taken the charges of 1870-71, an exceptional year of finance, for standard, and it has made bad worse by deducting even from the low estimates of that year the pretty large sum of £350,000 out of a total of £5,009,512, or nearly 14 per cent." But we added we are not hopeless. We welcomed the move as the beginning of a new era, and expressed a hope that at no distant date decentralization of the finances would be effected on a thorough and systematic plan. We remarked that India could not and should not be considered as a homogeneous whole for purposes of administration, it widely differed in geographical position, material resources and national characteristics. All that the Government of India should do was to play the part of an imperial guardian and let not one province interfere with the action of the other. The peace of the country secured, each local Government might well be left to pursue its own course for the well-being of the people committed to its care. Such a policy of federalization would be productive of the greatest benefit to the country. It affords us great pleasure to notice that Sir John Strachey now recognizes the truth of these remarks. He says:

> As Your Excellency told us the other day, on a very different occasion from this, we have been far too much disposed to disregard the fact that India is no homogeneous country but a continent containing many nations, the differences between which are at least as great as those which exist between the nations of Europe. It is farther from Lahore to Calcutta than from London to Naples, and, wide as the difference is between England and Italy, there is probably far less difference between those two countries in all their physical conditions, and far less difference between their inhabitants, than there is between the Punjab and Bengal. Nor is it at all true that our existing Indian Provinces are merely artificial divisions: there are often, no doubt, varieties of race and language and customs to be found within a single Province; but Bengal, Madras, Bombay, the North-Western Provinces, and the Punjab have, nevertheless, each of them, a fairly well defined and distinct character. I believe that the views which I have now been stating, and which Your Excellency has on more than one occasion publicly declared, are especially true in regard to matters of taxation and finance; we should think it very unreasonable to suppose that the same plans of taxation and financial administration were applicable to all the countries of Europe; and it is just as unreasonable to suppose that the same plans are applicable throughout India; a system which may be excellent in one Province may be as bad as possible in another.

We also pointed out the mischief of increasing local taxation under the new decentralization scheme with a view to save responsibility and odium to the Imperial or Central Government. Sir John now sees the truth of this. He remarks:

> Now, the Government is not so foolish as to imagine that there is any essential distinction between Provincial and Imperial taxation, or between Provincial and Imperial expenditure. When we talk of throwing upon the Local Governments new responsibilities for increasing the public revenues, or of relieving our finances by making Provincial certain obligations which have hitherto been Imperial, we are not so ostrich-like, or so dishonest, as to imagine or to profess, that, by any juggle of names, we can alter the nature of new taxation and make it less burdensome to the people; or that the actual expenditure of the Empire is diminished, when we say that charges for certain classes of works which have hitherto been Imperial, shall henceforth be Provincial; indeed in the accounts as now remodelled no distinction whatever is made between Imperial and Provincial Revenue and Expenditure.

So far so good. But how does Sir John applies the principles which he has so ably inunciated above? The immediate effect of the decentralization scheme of Lord Mayo's Government was the imposition of local rates in the Punjab, Oudh, Bombay, North Western Provinces and Bengal, though the last two provinces have been unaccountably kept out of Sir John's statement. The Bengal Road Cess, which was a part and parcel of the new system of local finance, strange to say, is left out of sight altogether. There were other local taxes contemplated, but Lord Northbrook set his face against them. And now Sir John proposes a further increase of taxation in Bengal and the North Western Provinces, the local Government of the first being directed to raise 27½ lacs and that of the last 10 lacs by local rates. So much for the statement that the object of the decentralization scheme is not to make a distinction between imperial and local taxation. If an imperial tax is imposed, the whole empire is affected, and whatever the pressure, it is shared by all classes of the community alike. But when local taxes are levied for local purposes, which were hitherto met from the imperial fund, the pressure varies, and the greatest mischief is that dust is thrown into the eyes of the English public. It is now proposed to transfer to the local Governments of Bengal and the North Western Provinces the receipts from Excise, Stamps, Law and Justice, and a few other items, and also a large amount of imperial expenditure, the result being that between the two Governments a burden of thirty-seven lacs of rupees is left to make up the required contribution to the imperial exchequer. The principle on which this burden is transferred is by no means fair. Sir John says that "there are many works undertaken for the special benefit of certain districts or places, with the object of increasing their wealth, or protecting them against famine, or for some other purposes. The Orissa canals, for instance, have afforded to that Province an insurance against famine; the Ganges canal has given absolute protection against famine to many districts of the North-Western Provinces; the Northern Bengal and the Tirhoot railways will be works of immense local value." Now, all public works are more or less of local value. The great trunk lines of Railways, for instance, though connecting vast areas, are also of great local benefit to the tracts through which they pass. Sir John himself admits that "there is no broad line of difference between such works as these and works of Imperial utility; Imperial works confer great local benefits, and works of local utility enrich the Empire; but, although the two classes of works thus run into one another the distinction is, nevertheless, a real one, and it has not been sufficiently recognized." But the distinction is without a difference. If the Orissa Canals have benefitted Orissa, they have served to swell the imperial receipts by the export of rice and other products. The increase in production will also tell upon the increase of the land revenue. The same remarks apply to the Ganges Canal. So that a line of distinction cannot be drawn between imperial and provincial works without disturbing the general principles of administration.

To our mind the soundest principle for the federalization of the finances was that which was enunciated in a Resolution issued by the Government of Lord Canning dated the 11th November 1861. In that Resolution the Government laid down the grand principle that "if the receipts of each great Division of the Empire within its limits cover all the expenditure within the same limits, and leave a sufficient surplus to meet a fair proportion of the imperial charges in India and at Home, such Division or Province is a profitable possession, and *vice-versa*." Taking this principle as the basis of calculations the Government of India shewed in the Resolution of 1861 a total of more than 12½ millions as the imperial expenditure, provision for which must be made from the surplus receipts of the various Provinces and Departments. In this sum were included all the charges of the Supreme Government in India and of the Home Government in England, Pensions, Interest of the Public debt, and of Railway Capital. Marine charges, and all Military charges which were not localized, Post Office, Electric Telegraph, and every other charge of an imperial character. The total income of India for the year, including receipts from all sources, was estimated at Rupees 41,33,001,000, or nearly 41¼ millions sterling; so that the Home and Imperial charges, which had no adequate provision of their own, in the shape of receipts, amounted to about 30½ per cent or about 5 annas in each rupee of the whole income. The Government of India was then of opinion that unless a Province had after paying all local charges, Military as well as Civil, a surplus equal to about 30 per cent, of its total income, it could not be said to "pay its rateable share of imperial charges, of the charges of the general Government, of the Railways, Post Office and Electric Telegraph and Marine, of the supply of Stores and Recruits from England, of the Interest of the Public debt, and various other charges which it was impossible to localize." After making due allowance for isolated possessions like Aden, which could not be expected to be self-supporting, but which had great political value, the Government of India remarked:

> "But as regards those great Divisions of India, which have in former times, maintained themselves as separate kingdoms, and which in size, population and importance equal many of the independent Monarchies of modern Europe, it is very necessary that each Government or Administration should consider not only how far it pays all its own local expenses, but to what extent it contributes the necessary quota towards those imperial expenses which admit of no localization."

As there seems to be considerable misunderstanding as to the right of Bengal to claim the whole of the revenue now credited to its accounts, the following remarks of the Government of India in 1861, though penned by one who could not be accused of bias in favor of Bengal, have a peculiar significance at the present moment. They are as follows:

> "The first of these Divisions on the list is Bengal, which with a total local income of more than fourteen millions, is debited with local charges to the amount of less than five and a half millions.
>
> Thirty per cent. on the receipts in Bengal would give Rupees 4,21,34,400 as its share of imperial expenses.
>
> This added to Rupees 5,36,21,000 of local charges would give Rupees 9,57,55,400 as the total quota of Bengal towards the expenses imperial as well as local, of the Government of India, leaving a clear surplus of Rupees 4,46,92,000 or close on four-half millions sterling towards making up the deficiencies of other provinces.

Some deduction may be allowed from this surplus on account of receipts, which might be claimed by other Provinces, but which find their way to the Treasury of Calcutta, and also on account of charges from which Bengal directly benefits, but which are incurred in other and often in distant Provinces.

Thus the Customs, Salt and Opium which aggregate 8 millions sterling are in part the revenue of the North-Western Provinces, which might claim some share in the Salt, a rather larger share in the Customs, and a considerable proportion of the Opium revenue of Bengal, for which the North-Western Provinces do not get an equivalent in their immunity from all share of the Marine* charges which are entirely borne by Bengal.

Again, in the charges, the Military expenditure in Bengal, eighty-five lacks of Rupees, small as it appears compared with that in the North-Western Provinces the Punjab and Madras, is much of it on account of the army which garrisons the whole valley of the Ganges and the Punjab.

But on the other hand it must be considered that Bengal is not defended in Bengal. The troops which garrison and whose pay is disbursed in the North-Western Provinces and Oude defend Bengal from the Hindoostani invasions which, for centuries, periodically laid waste Behar and Bengal and transported the plunder of those Provinces to enrich the Sovereigns and Nobles of Delhi and Agra. The Bombay Army in the Deccan, Malwa and at Baroda, the Madras Army in Nagpore, and the troops which garrison Gwalior, occupy the Country and Capitals of the Mahrattas, who a, hundred years ago, but for the growth of the British power, would certainly have desolated, and probably have permanently occupied Bengal.

The Army in Burmah protects Bengal from a power which, within, living memory, threatened the invasion of Eastern Bengal, while the Punjab Force not only occupies the country of the latest and most formidable the Indian Natives Military Powers, but watches the Passes through which, for twenty centuries past, the hordes of Central Asia, Persia, and Khorasan have descended to conquer, plunder and found kingdoms in India.

There is, in fact, no great Division of the Empire which does not materially contribute to that place which permits the Merchant and Cultivator of Bengal to take advantage of those boundless opportunities for enriching himself presented by the luxuriant soil, the teeming and docile population and the unequalled facilities of water carriage, which Bengal enjoys.

* Still, after making every allowance for these considerations, there is a larger proportionate surplus of receipts as compared with disbursements in Bengal than in any other Province."

The above is a fair summary of the financial position of Bengal. Let the different provinces be allowed to appropriate their revenues and then called upon to provide the required contribution to the Central Government. If any province should with its existing resources fail to make good its quota, let it be authorized to raise it by fresh taxes, but to arbitrarily allot revenue and expenditure and then to burden particular provinces with additional taxation for purposes of the imperial exchequer is neither reasonable nor equitable. As matters now stand since the decentralization scheme of Lord Mayo's Government Bengal has been required to raise 60 lacs of rupees, the amount which was raised by one per cent income tax throughout the empire. So much for justice to particular provinces under the Decentralization Scheme. Bengal is the greatest loser. It yields the largest amount of revenue, and yet it is saddled with the heaviest item of additional taxation. Is this the case because the Government wishes to compensate the loss of prospective revenue due to the Permanent Settlement? Say what Sir John Strachey may the agricultural population of Bengal will have a just cause of complaint.

OSCILLATIONS AND ONSLAUGHTS.

THESE two terms, oscillations and onslaughts, we may say, characterize the Budget speech of Sir John Strachey. There is a marked oscillation in the financial policy of the Government as represented in the opinions of the Finance Minister on several important questions, and a covert attack or onslaught upon the past administrations conveyed through these opinions. Sir John has taken the unusual course of stating these opinions as his own, and thereby avoided the risk of committing the Government. How far this course is compatible with the well-understood rules of official etiquette it is for the head of the Government to consider; to us outsiders it appears that the individual opinions of the Finance Minister on debatable points, which are at variance with the recognized policy of Government, may be a source of embarrassment to Government. But the exposition, which His Excellency the Viceroy is expected to make on Wednesday next, will doubtless clear up this point. If the Government is prepared to carry out what Sir John Strachey proposes or suggests we fear a prospect of heavy additional taxation is before the country. We will notice some of the points in which we discover oscillations of opinion and onslaughts upon the past administrations.

In the first place Sir John Strachey says that henceforth the proposals of Government as to loans should be taken *cum grano salis*. He remarks, "it is not usually possible to communicate the prospects of the year to the Secretary of State with sufficient fullness to enable him to decide, finally, upon the proposals of the Government of India. These important statements must, therefore, be understood henceforth to be, so far as prospective Loan Operations are involved, only provisional forecasts, and must not be held in any way to commit the Government of India or the Secretary of State to borrow for the service of the year, either the particular sum set down, or in particular proportions in India and England." Now, what is a Budget statement worth, if it be in the power of the Government to disturb the money market at its will and pleasure during the year? Emergencies may arise, when it may be necessary to raise a loan suddenly, but a Finance Minister cannot be worth his salt, if he cannot make a reliable forecast of the requirements of the State before twelve months. In reviewing the financial administration for the last seven years, Sir John Strachey says, "included in the Gross Revenues is the sum of £2,443,300 transferred from the Book Capital of the extinct Military Funds: great doubts are felt whether it is right to reckon these transfers as Revenue at all, unless, indeed, interest be charged *per contra* as if the Funds were still in existence; and, for my present purpose, I prefer to exclude them." So that what was done for the last seven years is now to be undone, but this is a small matter of detail. Referring to the abolition of the Income tax, he says, "I for my part regret it." Does this mean that he may restore it? Surely it cannot be consistent for a Finance Minister to thrust his individual opinion upon a subject, which has been discussed thread-bare, and in respect of which a distinct policy has been announced, inasmuch as it tends only to raise a suspicion in the public mind. Then Sir John Strachey says that unremunerative public works ought to be paid out of current income. These are, he says, State Railways made for strategical purposes, barracks, fortifications, or other works, which involve a heavy outlay and give no direct return. Again, he accepts the principle that a sufficient surplus ought to be secured in years of prosperity in order to meet any deficit which might be endured in occasional years of adversity. We do not question the soundness of these principles, but he adds that "considering that we have lost the income tax, it is impossible to anticipate that they will be fulfilled in future, unless we take some further steps for ensuring a larger surplus of income over ordinary expenditure than we can now count upon." If so, then what is the use of discussing these matters? The introduction of these extraneous matters looks like an attempt to attack the past administrations. Thus Sir John says, "I am afraid that it can hardly be denied that the system which has hitherto been followed, under which these necessary, but not directly remunerative, works have been mixed up with works which we expect to be directly profitable, has tended to make us less chary in spending money than we should have been if the expenditure had been shown as the famine expenditure is shown, among the ordinary charges of the year." If Sir John could have shewn that the principles which he has laid down could be carried out without recourse to additional taxation, we could have understood him, but he says "we have every reason to believe that, under the system of provincial assignments established in 1871, and which we are now further developing, these charges will bring no fresh burdens in future on the Imperial Treasury and the actual reduction of Imperial Expenditure for which we are able to take credit in our Estimates for the coming year, in consequence of the extension of that system, are, as I shall presently show, not unimportant." In other words Sir John's sole aim is to save the imperial treasury at the expense of the local Governments; he holds out no prospect of reduction of imperial expenditure, but suggests relief by provincial assignment and provincial taxation. On a subject on which an opinion of the Finance Minister would have been most welcome, Sir John gives none—we mean the exchange question. The reader doubtless remembers that six years ago a Bill was passed by the Governor General's Council imposing a compulsory water rate for the support of irrigation canals. Sir John Strachey says, "the question, it will be remembered, was one in which Lord Mayo took a deep interest; his views on the subject are well known, and I believe them to have been thoroughly sound." Knowing as we do what an active part Sir John took in the imposition of this compulsory water-rate we cannot help saying that this statement only provokes a smile. But it cannot end with a smile. Although the Secretary of State had disallowed the compulsory water-rate, Sir John proposes to revive it. He says, "the principle for which I contend in simple. Under our existing system, almost the only direct returns which we obtain from our canals are those derived from the voluntary payments of the cultivators who take water for irrigating their fields. I assert that this system is wrong and irrational." May we ask whether it is not "wrong and irrational," nay inequitable and unrighteous, that those who might not take water should be compelled to pay for it? The argument is that if the people are made to pay for roads, they must pay for canals, but it is not remembered that in the case of roads, drains, hospitals, and drinking water the tax-payers use the same. Further, the people have a voice in the administration of funds for these objects. But, says Sir John, "every one knows perfectly well, that, whatever may be the theory, the fact is, putting aside some altogether exceptional cases, that the people at large have no more to do with the regulation of local and municipal expenditure than either the expenditure on canals and railways, and that, for many years to come, this must continue to be true." So the policy of giving the people the privilege of local self-government is mere moonshine—aye, a delusion! We are curious to know how far Lord Lytton shares this opinion. The whole aim of Sir John seems to be, as we have already observed, to relieve the imperial exchequer. He proposes the transfer of the charges of local works of public utility to the local Governments. He says, "it is not possible for the Government of India to do more than distribute between the various Provinces the burden which now improperly rests on the Imperial revenues and, in doing this, and obliging each Province to meet the charges for its own works of local utility it will have taken a great step in the right direction." Right direction indeed, because, it lessens the responsibility of the Imperial Government. But how are the local Governments to meet these charges? They must raise local taxes! Then the famine expenditure must henceforward be regarded as local expenditure. Such was not the policy of the past administrations, but Sir John has an idea of his own. He says, "by throwing upon each province the responsibility for meeting the charges necessary for providing the canals and railways required to protect its own people against famine, we give practical recognition to the principle on which the Secretary of State has insisted, and we obtain to a certain extent, though far from completely, that safeguard for the Imperial revenues which he thought so necessary." But famine will break out notwithstanding these canals, for it is notorious that when water is most needed from these canals, that is in a time of drought, it cannot be had in sufficient quantities, and as the failure of crops cannot be insured against it will devolve upon the Government to feed the suffering population, and are the local Governments to provide funds for such an emergency? How can they do so, when the bulk of the revenues are at the disposal of the Imperial Government? Sir John Strachey falls in with the views of humanitarians against the salt tax. He says, "I do not for a moment assert, nor do I believe, that the actual supply is insufficient for the preservation of health, nor do I at all agree with those who maintain that the salt tax presses with extreme severity on the poorer classes. But, however this may be, it is a great evil that the supply of the necessaries of life should be restrict-

ed, and the restriction is not only mischievous in respect of human consumption, but in this way also, that there is little salt for the cattle, and little for any of the manufacturing processes in which it would be useful." Now Sir John admits that the salt tax cannot be done away with, but he contemplates an equalization of the tax. This is certainly a desirable measure, but is the Government prepared to make the necessary sacrifice of revenue? Sir John admits that the empire should not be treated as a homogeneous entity, and yet for the purposes of the salt tax he would so treat it. What he says about the inland sugar duty has our hearty assent. Regarding the Cotton duties Sir John gives expression to opinions, which are not only at variance with those of the past administration, but are indirectly a reflection upon it. He regrets that "the precarious condition of the country cannot admit of a modification of the duties, not only because we are thus unable to carry out the orders of Her Majesty's Government, to which this Government owes a loyal and unhesitating obedience, but I regret it personally, because, as the Council are aware, I am no recent convert to the policy which has been laid down, but have been for many years past one of those, who have advocated the abolition of these duties at the earliest possible opportunity." He continues:

> I altogether disbelieve that there is, in this matter any conflict between Indian and English interests. I am satisfied that these interests are identical, and that they alike require the abolition of this tax. I will not speculate on what ought to have been done if the case had been different, but there is one thing which I wish to take this opportunity of saying. —We are often told that it is the duty of the Government of India to think of Indian interests alone, and that if the interests of Manchester suffer it is no affair of ours. For my part I utterly repudiate such doctrines. I have not ceased to be an Englishman because I have passed the greater part of my life in India, and have become a member of the Indian Government. The interests of Manchester, at which foolish people sneer, are the interests not only of the great and intelligent population engaged directly in the trade in cotton, but those of millions of Englishmen. I am not ashamed to say that while I hope that I feel as strongly as any man the duties which we owe to India, there is no higher duty in my estimation than that which I owe to my own country. I believe that our countrymen at home have a real and very serious grievance, and that it is no imaginary injury against which they complain. I know that Your Excellency has resolved that the Government of India shall not shirk this business, and there need be no fear that it will be regarded in any half-hearted spirit. Your Excellency took the earliest opportunity which could be found, when you assumed the office of Viceroy, to declare publicly your views upon this subject, and if I say no more regarding it now, it is mainly because I feel sure that Your Excellency will not lose the present opportunity of publicly declaring those views again. For myself personally, if I had not confidently expected to take part in this great reform, I doubt whether anything would have induced me to accept my present post: and I trust that I may still have a share in the performance of a task which I look upon as one of the most important which this Government has before it.

All this will doubtless be very flattering to Manchester, but what is the object of Sir John Strachey in making these confessions of faith, if the exigencies of the State cannot immediatey admit of the repeal or reduction of the duties? This was the ground on which Lord Northbrook's Government had opposed the measure, and it looks like a wanton attack upon them when the Finance Minister cannot afford the desired relief, but at the same time offensively parades his individual views upon the subject. If the object be simply to coquet with Manchester, Sir John is right, but if he is not in a position to gratify the hopes he has raised, what is the use of nursing them? We do not for a moment wish that he should be less an Englishman because he has come out to this country, but as a ruler of India he ought to follow other and higher instincts than those of a self-seeking Englishman, whose primary object it is to make profit out of India. Lord Halifax said, and Lord Northbrook echoed that noble sentiment—"in governing India our first duty is justice to India," but says Sir John. "there is no higher duty in my estimation than those which I owe to my own country." We admire his patriotism, but we miss in this declaration that broad and generous sense of duty to humanity and justice, which characterizes the best statesmen of England, and which has made her what she is. Will not the members of Lord Northbrook's Government, those who supported the new Tariff Act, and resisted the selfish demands of Manchester, vindicate their policy? We shall be curious to hear what Sir Arthur Hobhouse, Sir Clive Bayley, and Mr. Hope may have to say on the subject on Wednesday next. While Sir John said so much about matters, which were in the distant future, he did not say one word about public works expenditure, which, as the reader is aware, is the chief disturbing element in Indian finance. The public would have been glad to know whether any economy was contemplated in this branch of expenditure, and what good has been effected by the appointment of a responsible Minister of Works and the establishment of Cooper's Hill College, but Sir John was ominously silent upon this vitally important subject.

These oscillations and onslaughts have a dangerous tendency. They shew that there is to be no continuity in the policy of the Goverment. If the opinions to which Sir John Strachey has given expression in his Budget speech, and which we have noted above, fructify in definite measures of Government, the country may well look out for a crop of heavy additional taxes both imperial and local.

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY INTO INDIAN FINANCE.

Seldom in the history of Parliamentary discussions on Indian affairs was there such a crowded House present as that to which Mr. Fawcett presented his motion for a Select Committee on Indian Finance. No less than 293 members were present, and although many of them came at the eleventh hour to swell the ministerial ranks, and voted without hearing the debate, the House, when the debate first began, was full enough. In another column we give a full report of Mr. Fawcett's speech, specially taken for this journal, from which the reader will find that the "sightless champion of India" argued ably, logically, and forcibly the necessity of appointing a Select Committee on Indian Finance. He shewed that the reappointment of such a Committee had been repeatedly recommended to Parliament, and that if it had been deferred it was because the appointment of smaller Committees on special questions had already taken up much of the ground reserved for a large Committee on the general question. Even the Under-Secretary of State admitted that "the Hon'ble member had been singularly fair, and that his argument was a very able one." He added that "while he differed from the hon. gentleman on many of the views he had expressed with reference to Indian finance, he admitted that the hon. member showed a sympathy with Indian matters which he could wish many more hon. gentlemen would emulate, for though they might be obliged to oppose many of the motions made by the hon. gentleman, yet opposition would be preferable to apathy." The debate, which followed Mr. Fawcett's motion, was very interesting. Sir George Campbell in seconding it laid just stress upon the cardinal defect in the present system of Indian financial administration—the absence of continuity in the policy of the Government. He said, "when, people talked of the Government in India they were too apt to think of the Viceroy alone, and to ignore the existence of his Council. We did not now induce men of the same eminence in the political world to accept the position of Viceroy as those who formerly accepted the post of Governor-General under the old system. A similar difficulty existed as regarded the Financial Ministers sent out to India, and it had now almost become the practice for a member of the Indian Civil Service to be selected on the spot for the office. He was usually selected by the Viceroy himself, and therefore he ceased to be an independent controller of Indian finance. The Viceroy was assisted by the other members of his Council, but instead of advising him as a body, many of the members were specialists who were unprepared to advise the Government on matters unconnected with their respective Departments. Consequently, in these modern days, especially in regard to finance, the Viceroy individually had acquired an inexpedient degree of power. The oscillations of policy to which he had alluded were now extreme, whereas formerly they were moderate." It cannot be denied that since the transfer of the Government from the Company to the Crown there has been much oscillation in the financial policy of the Government of India. The best proof of this fact is afforded by the Budget speech of Sir John Strachey. Sir George justly contended that "the present system of change was undesirable and dangerous, and that it would be most beneficial not only to India, but also to this country, if the whole system were thoroughly sifted and examined by a body of gentlemen strong enough to test it and to lay down some general principle on which the finances of India and the administration of India might in future be conducted." Mr. Smollett spoke somewhat at random, and moved an amendment to the following effect: "That this House, viewing with alarm the financial deficits in our Indian administration during the last 10 years and the important additions made to the debt of India during that period is of opinion that no new public work should be undertaken which would necessitate the raising of fresh loans either in India or in England; and that, in order to place the finances of India on a satisfactory basis, the distinction which is now made between ordinary and extraordinary expenditure should be discontinued." There were many hard truths in what Mr. Smollett said, but his manner was against him. Thus he remarked, "Indian finance was a matter of very grave importance, which was often criticized with much ability by the organs of public opinion, but which in that House never attracted the smallest attention. The cause of the repulsion felt in that House for Indian debates was that Secretaries and Under-Secretaries for India were selected, not because they knew anything of India, but because they knew nothing about it. ("Hear," and a laugh.) These gentlemen, though knowing nothing about India, contrived to make their statements as intricate, as unattractive, and as incomprehensible as they possibly could. They usually had a natural inaptitude for making their statements on Indian affairs emotional (a laugh), and as if this were not sufficient to repel men from Indian finance, they manœuvred, with great success, to delay to the latest possible working day of the Session the discussion of subjects connected with India." Again he charged the Indian officials with "cooking the accounts." He said, "in a long experience of public life in India he had never found a single official who, having spent large sums of money, ever admitted that he had been at fault, but these men went on spending and spending, blundering and blundering, to the bitter end." He made this side-hit at Lord Salisbury: "A new Administration was formed in the middle of the Session, the month of May—it was a makeshift Administration, for the Conservative Party had no majority in the House of Commons. At the head of it was the late Earl of Derby, and the management of Indian finance was confided to a noble lord who sat in the House of Commons by the courtesy title of Cranborne, which had since blossomed into the Marquisate of Salisbury. (A laugh.)" Mr. Cave, while admitting the necessity of a Committee, inasmuch as the work done by previous Committees was incomplete and imperfect, inconsistently enough, argued against Mr. Fawcett's motion. Sir George Balfour supported it, saying that "the members of the House did not possess the information they ought to have to enable them to discharge their duties. The military expenditure of India was far beyond what was necessary for the maintenance of the garrison, and burdens were thrown upon India which India ought not to bear. The provision and the maintenance of vessels for the transport of troops was carried to an extent that was unnecessary, considering the use that might be made of the mercantile fleet engaged in the India trade; and there were no more costly white elephants than these transports were." Mr. Denison pointed to the great danger of throwing the whole system into discord by the new-fangled system of mixing up the accounts relating to ordinary and extraordinary expenditure. But at the same time, he could see no prospect of a Committee appointed in the present session coming to a satisfactory decision. Mr. Anderson supported the demand for inquiry. Mr. Onslow held that even although the appointment of a Committee was desirable on general gounds, it would be somewhat inopportune at the present moment. Mr. Dunbar did not regard the proposal to appoint the Committee as at all inopportune. On the contrary, "the appointment of a new Viceroy and a new Finance Minister rendered the proposed investigation desirable, more especially as the latter was not a man of the highest financial experience." Mr.

Forsyth thought a strong case had been made out for the appointment of a Committee, the business of which would merely be to collect information on subjects with which the House at present was not very competent to deal. Lord George Hamilton, the Under-Secretary of State for India, made a very able speech in which he answered the arguments of Mr. Fawcett, and retorted the attacks of Mr. Smollett. He took a *color de rose* picture of the financial position of India, and while admitting that there was much to enquire into, he did not think that the enquiry should be made by a Parliamentary Committee. He was followed by Mr. Goschen, who while giving Lord George Hamilton every credit for his able and vigorous speech, strongly urged the propriety of an enquiry. He said: "Indian finance was now in a more critical position even than it had been five or six years ago when the Committee was appointed (Hear, hear.) Since that time the finances of India had been threatened by dangers which then were hardly contemplated; and so far from a Committee being less necessary now, many grave questions had arisen which needed investigation in a still greater degree. (Hear, hear.) The Committee would not be appointed with any view to supercede or interfere with the Indian Government while they were grappling with a famine, but to assist in interesting this House in the affairs of the great Empire for whose welfare the House were responsible with Her Majesty's Government. (Hear, hear.)" The Chancellor of the Exchequer wound up the debate by opposing the motion. The House then divided—for the motion—123, against it 173, majority against—50.

Thus ended the debate on Mr. Fawcett's motion. We need not however lose heart. The very large number of members, who supported it, were convinced of the necessity of an inquiry. Even those who opposed it did so chiefly on the ground that the present time was inopportune, because a famine has been raging in this country. It could not be denied that the more frequently Indian matters were brought under the notice of Parliament, the better for the cause of good government. When India was under the rule of the East India Company, there was a fixity or continuity in the policy of Government, but since the transfer there has been so much uncertainty and indefiniteness that the popular mind is always kept on the stretch, not knowing what the morrow may bring forth. Lord George Hamilton was not correct when he said that the East India Company "did little more than to maintain peace and collect revenue." It was they who had founded the empire, and scarcely a year passed away when they did not make some addition to it, and while carrying on this extension of territory, they introduced those institutions of civilized government, which have been now more fully developed under the direct Government of the Crown, but they had accomplished their work with a revenue about one third less, and a debt far less than one-half the present. This is a subject well worth enquiring into by Parliament.

LORD LYTTON ON EDUCATION.

LORD LYTTON'S address at the University Convocation may be divided into two parts, viz., academic and political. In the first part His Lordship sought to impress upon his audience in vivid language some truisms on the subject of education. His Lordship asked—what are they to teach, and how are they to teach it—and what is or should be the paramount aim and purpose of all our teaching? These questions have been asked as often as there has been a change in the head of the Government or in the *personnel* of the governing authorities of the education department, but the general educational policy of the Government has remained almost unchanged. That mere teaching is not education is admitted on all hands; that the object of sound education is to develope the inner being in man, both intellectual and moral, is also conceded; but the ideas of theorists have varied as to the best means of accomplishing that object. Lord Lytton said that the "ultimate object of all education is the promotion of character"; this is a truism, which no one can gainsay. But judged by this test can it be justly averred that the Indian system of education has been an absolute failure? Has it fostered only "literary or philosophical fly-catching?" It cannot be denied that English education has effected a wondrous change in the character of those, who have received the benefit of it, and through them in the character of the nation. If Lord Macaulay could rise from his grave and see what English education, which he advocated so enthusiastically, has done for Bengal, aye for all India, within the last forty years, would not his soul really feel elated with the work already accomplished? Has not English education chased away the darkness, which had enveloped the Indian mind? Has it not opened to it a new world of knowledge, thought, research, and force? Has it not cured it of ideas of the grossest and most grotesque kind, and brought it up to a standard of development, which would enable it to hold communion with the highest minds of the world, ancient or modern, and appreciate their teachings? Has it not elevated the national character, and broadened the national ideas of life and labor, and stimulated the national aspirations in the right direction? Has it not given the State a body of public servants on whose intelligence, devotion, and probity it can implicitly rely? We read in a public memorial the following remarkable sentences, regarding the improved character of the native judiciary: "A new generation of natives have come to the service; they are better educated, and imbued with a better spirit, and they have changed the character of the nation. The young men who now fill the subordinate ranks of the judicial service, and who constitute the bar of the High Court and of the District Courts, have brought an amount of general knowledge and ability, an acquaintance with the theory and practical application of law, and honorable principles of life, to bear on the discharge of public duties, which reflect credit on themselves, and on the Government which from a generous and enlightened motive, has educated them, and that to the great advantage of the country." We have now natives on the bench of the High Court, in the Legislative Councils, in municipal corporations, in local committees, and where the selections made are good, they have been conducting their duties intelligently and zealously, but would they have been able to take their share in the administration of the country without English Education? The elevation of the national character and aspirations of the people of this country is the greatest glory of British rule in the East, and no patriotic Englishman can contemplate this great work without feeling proud of it. With all deference we submit that it has not been thus all "literary or philosophical fly-catching." Lord Lytton quoted a German writer, who has wisely said—"whatever you want to put into the life of a nation, put first into its schools." And those, who had planned the scheme of English education for India, did put into the schools what they wanted to put into the life of the nation. They wanted to regenerate the nation intellectually and morally, and who can deny that they have been eminently successful? The condescension with which Lord Lytton noticed the utterances of the native press in his University address was itself an homage paid to native public opinion, which again is a glorious result of English education. If English education in India had been merely "literary and philosophical fly-catching," surely his Lordship would not have descended from his high pedestal and combated with a noble chivalry, peculiarly his own, with "literary or philosophical fly-catchers."

Lord Lytton was correct when he said that "the average English intellect needs development on the imaginative and sympathetic side of it; the average native intellect on the positive and practical side." And the natives are fully alive to the importance of practical education. The fathers of English education did their work when they roused the Indian intellect from the torpor of ages, and it was the duty of their successors to give it a practical turn. Lord Lytton implied that English education has imparted to the natives of this country a passion for place-hunting. His Lordship remarked, "it seems to be virtually assumed that the be-all and the end-all of an educated class is Government employment. Thus, on the one side, there is an educated native plaintively telling us that, because we have provided him with a University education, and because he has fully and successfully availed himself of that provision, therefore we are bound, at least in his opinion, to provide him also with official employment. Virtually he comes to us with his M. A. degree in one hand, and in the other a demand for some post under Government." This we venture to say is not a quite correct representation of facts. It is true that the educated natives aspire to serve their country and sovereign, and that is because they feel that they have an inherent right to that service. When they see men with a little pretence to liberal education get the loaves and fishes of the state, because these carry an overruling charter as it were in their color and creed, that the higher offices have been made a monopoly under a covenant for a handful of English youths, that the promise made to them for well nigh half a century has been repeatedly broken, have they not reason and justice on their side if they hold up their University degree, and demand a substantial recognition of it by the very power, which has made them what they are? But do the educated natives only flock to the Government service? Have they not been using the professional education, which the State has given them? Have they not been going to the bar, or entering the profession of medicine or engineering? These are the only outlets, which are open to them under the present system of education, and they have not neglected them. As for positive knowledge they are we may say thirsting for it. Lord Lytton said, "if it be our object to bring Eastern life into harmony with Western thought, and to confer upon Eastern life the practical benefits of Western civilization, it is to habits of positive thinking formed by positive methods of observation, and to a salutary mistrust of all speculation which cannot be verified in the domain of positive fact, that we should endeavour to train the native mind. But for this purpose mere literary culture is inadequate. The best education we can provide for the native community of this country is the education which will most rapidly and permanently fit it to assume a practical and eventually, I hope, a prominent part, in the development, not only of its political, but also of its social, industrial, commercial, and intellectual life. For in these days political power is the child of social activity; in these days industry and commerce are the parents of national prosperity; and whilst Religion guides, Science should stimulate, Literature reflect, and Art adorn, the progress of a people. But how is the native community to do all this, and how shall we help it to do it? Well, I am sorry to say, that whether you consult those journals which represent the aspirations of the native community, or those which similarly represent European opinion in India, you find this great question discussed, by each party to the discussion of it from a point of view which seems to me essentially misleading, and within limits lamentably narrow." While we admire the sentiments of Lord Lytton, and the beautiful language in which they are clothed, we cannot help saying that His Lordship did an unconscious injustice to the native community. Possibly his Lordship had not read the papers relating to the most important movement made of late years by the children of the soil for the cultivation of science—we allude to Dr. Sircar's Science Association. On the morning of the day on which his Lordship addressed the University the Allahabad paper thus noticed this movement: "The subscriptions that have come in so handsomely, coupled with Sir Richard Temple's material assistance, have at last enabled the Apostle of Positive Science in India to open his temple for public worship, and from the list of the trustees and committee, it is evident that among those of the worshippers have been already enrolled some of the most respected names in Bengal." It would have been gracious if his Lordship had acknowledged the importance of this movement and offered a generous encouragement to it. To quote the German writer whom his Lordship cited—"whatever you want to put into the life of a nation, put first into its schools." If Lord Lytton really wishes to redeem the debt which the West owes to the East by making a gift of posi-

tive knowledge, let the Government we say "put t first into the schools."

LORD LYTTON ON DOMESTIC POLICY.

WE now come to the political part of Lord Lytton's University address. His Lordship said, "I am aware that, strictly speaking, this subject does not perhaps fall fairly within the province of the Chancellor of your University; but it happens that the Chancellor of this University is also Viceroy of India, and since I find myself gifted with a double identity, kindly allow me to take the fullest possible advantage of the gift." We heartily welcome his Lordship's utterances on any public question. The opportunities, which the ruler of the country has for elucidating his policy or his views on public matters, are so few that the people cannot but feel grateful to him whenever he opens his mind. His Lordship spoke with a force and frankness, which we cannot too highly admire. But amid rhetorical glitter, sparkling imageries, and brilliant humour we confess we miss the solid gold of logic. In the first place his Lordship said, "now, whatever else it may rest upon, the claim of native subjects to official employment rests primarily, and principally, on the pledge spontaneously given, and repeatedly re-affirmed, to them by the Crown and Parliament of England." No, it rests upon a far higher ground—it rests upon justice. It is because every nation have a natural right to serve their country, the Crown and Parliament of England have recognized this right of the people of India, provided they are qualified. In the history of nations there is not a single instance in which that right has been ignored. We cannot feel too grateful to the British Government for the gracious pledge it has given—but that pledge is, but a formal expression of England's sense of duty, which she owes to the millions who are subject to her sway, and to herself. We do not quite understand his Lordship when he said that England gave the pledge "spontaneously,"—if his Lordship meant that it was no appeal to arms, which extorted this promise, his Lordship was quite correct, though there are critics who urge that the Mutiny was a precursor to the Queen's Proclamation of 1858. But we have too great a faith in England's sense of duty and justice to share such an opinion. We do believe that the English nation does mean to govern India on the broad principles of justice and righteousness. But it cannot be denied that the pledge was not given without considerable agitation on the part of the people of this country and their friends in England, that it did not come without repeated "petitions," that the concession was not made until the conscience of England was galvanized as it were—nevertheless we are ready to admit that the pledge was given "spontaneously." England is all-powerful, and if she had so willed she might have refused to give the pledge. It was certainly spontaneous, when she acted up to the dictates of her own conscience. If she had wished, she might have said "nay," and there is no power on the face of the earth, which could have moved her from her resolve. It is her glory that though she governs India despotically, she aims at governing it in unison with the sentiments and feelings of the people, and in consonance with the eternal principles of fairness, justice and honesty. Lord Lytton believed that the policy which inspired that pledge was not only generous but wise; and his Lordship continued: "The pledge has been given. The duty of the Goverment of India is, not to discuss it, but to carry it out; and I think the native community in this country is not altogether without some cause to complain of the length of time during which that pledge has been, as it still remains, inadequately redeemed." This was candid and honest. It is not every ruler, who has the courage and manliness to make such a confession. We feel all the more grateful to His Lordship for it, because at Delhi His Lordship had prefaced his proclamation of the new Empire by saying that it was ruled by a Sovereign whose "word had never been broken." No loyal subject of Her Gracious Majesty can question this statement, but if her pledge to her Indian subjects for employment in the higher offices of the State, "has been, as it still remains, nadequately redeemed," no blame attaches to her personally. Her affection for the people of India are well known, and if her Government has been slow in fulfilling the pledge, there are reasons, as Lord Lytton says, for this "tardy and imperfect redemption." His Lordship said, "did time allow, it would be easy, I think, to convince any candid judge that the Governments of England and India have never consciously endeavoured to evade the obligation they spontaneously incurred. When, however, the obligation was perhaps, somewhat impulsively, contracted, the practical difficulties of discharging it were either underrated or ignored." Now, we are sorry that his Lordship should have thought that the pledge was given "impulsively." We do not know whether in saying so his Lordship disapproved the conduct of the great statesmen, who gave the pledge, and guided the imperial councils for half a century. Did they act "impulsively," when they recognized the just rights of the subject millions of India? We certainly sympathize with his Lordship in his present situation. It is patent that the faint-hearted action of his predecessors has placed him in a false position. He sees the justice of the claims of the natives, and yet he cannot take any steps to satisfy those claims without treading upon the corns of his countrymen, who practically hold a monopoly of the loaves and fishes of the State. The difficulties in his way are undoubtedly very great, but what reform has ever been accomplished without facing difficulties? No courageous statesman would however allow his heart to sink before difficulties. Was the Catholic Emancipation achieved in England without contending with immense difficulties? Were the Jewish Disabilities removed without facing great difficulties? Was the Liberation of the African and American Slaves consummated without coping with formidable difficulties? Similarly justice to the "sanctioned aspirations" of the native population of India cannot be done without mastering great difficulties. His Lordship said, "it never was intended, and I trust it never will be allowed, that prospective justice to the sanctioned aspirations of the native community should involve retrospective injustice to the tried abilities and prior rights of the existing covenanted service." We do not certainly wish that in doing justice to the children of the soil the Government should do injustice to the vested interests of the existing covenanted service. But these vested interests must be divested some day or other, if justice is to be at all done to the legitimate claims, hopes, and aspirations of the people of this country. As we remarked last week, for well nigh half a century these claims, hopes, and aspirations have been 'sanctioned' by the Imperial Parliament, and within that long period the Government has not adjusted the account referred to. The longer this adjustment is delayed, the greater becomes the difficulty, and if Lord Lytton postpones it, his successor will feel still more embarrassed, and as for the people, we can only say that hope deferred maketh the heart sick. His Lordship admitted that "the members of the covenanted service at present possess a practical monopoly of all its most important appointments." Is it right that this should continue? His Lordship added, "their numbers are still out of proportion to their prospects of promotion, and they already complain that the expectations held out to them when they entered the service are not being fulfilled." But surely none knows better than his Lordship that the fault lies with the Government, and with it alone. If the Government had not allowed the stream of competition men to flow on unchecked, there would not have been such a block in the promotion. And the action of the Government has involved double injustice—injustice to the present men because they cannot get promotion rapidly enough, and injustice to native aspirants, who, though otherwise qualified, cannot get a due fulfilment of the pledge. His Lordship said, "it must then, I fear, be frankly acknowledged that the Government of India is, practically, placed in the embarrassing position of a person who has signed two incompatible contracts, each of which he is bound in law, and bound in honour, to fulfil." We for one hold with due deference that there are no two "incompatible contracts" in the matter. The obligation is but one—the children of the soil ought to be employed in the service of the country if they are fit for it. India has not been made for the Covenanted Civilians, but they for India, and if under the fostering care of the Government the indigenous article has been so improved as to answer the requirements of the State, why should it continue to import the foreign article? If home-made cloth answers our want, why should we go to Manchester for her cotton goods? This is the real point at issue, but Lord Lytton did not unfortunately boldly meet it in the face. His Lordship remarked, "the Government of India has, on many occasions, evinced its anxiety to augment the native element in its public service, and on not a few occasions it has done so at the risk of incurring reproach, and provoking complaint, from its European servants." How many instances of this kind are there, to which his Lordship can point? On the contrary we can give numerous instances in which appointments held by uncovenanted officers have been conferred upon covenanted officers. But let that pass. Surely his Lordship will not deny justice to the natives, because by so doing the Government may "incur the reproach and provoke complaint from its European servants." Is the reproach "of the national conscience" or the "complaint" of the subject millions worth nothing? We entirely go with his Lordship when he says, "but I do not, for my own part, believe that to go on unsystematically appointing some native here and some native there, now one and then another to a Government post, would be an adequate redemption of our promise." This has been our humble opinion all along, and hence it is we have always set our face against the nomination system, under which "some native here, and some native there" may be jobbed into offices, for which the favoured individuals may not be fully qualified. There is, says his Lordship, but one safe and satisfactory course now open to the Government of India. And let us hear his Lordship on this most important point. His Lordship's remarks:

"It will no doubt involve the radical reform of a system which, having been organized anterior, and without reference to, these conflicting obligations, experience has proved to be incompatible with the complete satisfaction of either of them. I regret that a reform so increasingly needed should have been so long postponed, because those who now inherit the deferred duty must inherit also the augmented difficulty of carrying it out. But I am far from saying that its postponement was causeless or could have been avoided. Even delays are better than precipitation, for if reform is to be durable, it must be deliberate; and it was the clear duty of the Government of India to enquire, and feel, its way very cautiously through a matter in which one false step might be irrevocable, and the mischief of it beyond calculation. Now, it devolved upon me to tell the representatives of the native community at Delhi two plain truths: first, that there are certain functions of Government in this country which cannot be confided to any but British officers; and, secondly, that there is no kind of offical employment for which the Government of India would be justified in regarding mere intellectual acuteness as a sufficient qualification. I have been told, gentlemen, by many organs of the native press, that this was a hard saying and an indirect revocation of promises on which they were entitled to rely. But what is the simple fact? The broad principles commended by the Secretary of State, and adopted by the Government of India for its guidance in this matter have never been cancelled or modified. The groundwork of these principles was laid down with a masterly hand, by a distinguished statesman to whose authority I am content to appeal, and whose words I will ask leave to repeat. He said.:—

"It is notorious that in their case" (that is to say, in the case of natives) "mere intellectual acuteness is no indication of ruling power. In vigour, in courage and in administrative ability some of the races of India, most backward in education, are well-known to be superior to other races which, intellectually, are much more advanced. In a competitive examination, the chances of a Bengali would probably be superior to the chances of a Pathan or a Sikh. It would, nevertheless, be a dangerous experiment to place a successful student from the colleges of Calcutta in command over any of the martial tribes of Upper India. And to these practical disqualifications of race must be added the not less serious difficulties which may arise out of the circumstances of rank and caste. It should never be forgotton,—

and there should never be any hesitation in laying down the principle,—that it is one one of our first duties towards the people of India to guard the safety of our own dominion. For this purpose we must proceed gradually, employing only such natives as we can trust, and these only in such offices and in such places as in the actual condition of things the Government of India may determine to be really suited to them.

Well, now, these words, which were written in 1869, were not specially present to my mind when I addressed the Imperial Assemblage at Delhi; but had they been so, I think that my language on that occasion could not have more accurately embodied than it did the substance and significance of them. But, although it is indisputable that there are certain Government appointments which can only be entrusted to Europeans, every competent and candid observer must perceive that there are many others perfectly suitable for the employment of natives and many natives perfectly competent to fill them with advantage to the State and credit to themselves. Such at least, is my own belief; and I therefore think that our first step must be to classify, or recast the classification of our public services, from this point of view. Those paramount executive functions which, in the supreme interests of public safety and national progress, must be permanently reserved for European agency, should be distinctly and emphatically defined; whilst to those posts—and they are neither few nor unimportant nor yet inferior in dignity—which natives are we believe, well qualified to occupy, the free admission of competent natives should be unreservedly facilitated and uninterruptedly maintained. But if natives are to be admitted in adequate numbers and frequency, and with adequate prospects of promotion, to certain offices originally confined to the covenanted service, and if they are to be so admitted without injury to the position, or prejudice to the claims, of present incumbents, then the present system of indenting on England for those branches of that service which, in all its branches, is already overcrowded, must be promptly stopped or rigidly restricted."

We commend the spirit of the above remarks. We readily admit that for political reasons certain high appointments must for the present be reserved for Englishmen; they are the rulers of the land, and they must hold in their hands the reins of power. But what are the appointments, which are to be reserved for them? We wish Lord Lytton were explicit upon this point. His Lordship's remarks were too vague, too general, too wide to be clearly understood. A classification of appointments ought to be made, but where is the line to be drawn? Is it intended to keep the service as close as before on the pretext that "there are certain functions of Government in this country, which cannot be confided to any but British officers?" If the intention be to shut out natives from the covenanted service on that plea, then the pledge of Parliament and the Queen would assuredly be broken. We hope it is not intended that the "open competition" shall no longer be open to the natives. Such a measure would be a most deplorable move backwards. It would put back the clock of improvement. And yet it would seem that some such measure was contemplated when his Lordship remarked "that mere intellectual acuteness was not a sufficient qualification." Is it deemed to be a sufficient qualification for the English candidates? Does the Government look to their birth or descent? We are not so democratic as to think that family position is worth nothing. The question is—is Lord Lytton prepared to go the whole length and declare that "mere intellectual acuteness" will not carry away the prize whether the candidate be an Englishman or an Indian? Will his Lordship boldly say that the Government should have the right of selection of candidates, whether European or Indian, for the competitive examination? If he makes a rule applicable to all alike that the Government shall have the right to select candidates and then give away the appointments according to the result of the competitive test, then the difficulty which he saw at Delhi might perhaps be solved. But what guarantee is there that the Government will always exercise its discretion wisely and impartially, that really good men may not be shut out and thus competition brought to a dead lock? But whatever rules may be adopted for the solution of the present difficulty, they ought to be made applicable to the European and the Indian alike. Our countrymen have no wish to monopolize the service. Let a definite but fair proportion of appointments be allotted to them and they will be satisfied. We only hope that the Government will not be deterred from doing justice to the natural claims of the children of the soil from a fear of "incurring reproach or provoking complaint from its European servants." Let justice be done though heavens may fall!

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

WE PUBLISH in a Supplement a *verbatim* report of Mr. Fawcett's speech in the House of Commons on Indian Finance specially taken for this journal.

ON WEDNESDAY next there will be a debate on the Budget in the Legislative Council. Lord Lytton is expected to announce his views on the financial policy of Government.

WE ARE requested to draw attention to an advertizement of the Indian Association in another column calling a Public Meeting at the Town Hall for Saturday next on the great topic of the day, the admission of natives into the Covenanted Civil Service. The very mention of the subject ought to draw thousands of our educated countrymen to the Meeting.

JUST as we were going to press we have been favoured with a report of His Excellency the Viceroy's address to the Calcutta Volunteers. As usual it is an exquisite literary effort; if it gave the Viceroy pleasure to make the address, it gives us greater pleasure to read it. We only regret that we cannot at this eleventh hour make room for it.

WE HAVE received too late for a lengthened notice a copy of a memorial of the Directors of the Hindu Family Annuity Fund to the Governor General in Council, praying for the exemption from attachment for debt of annuities and maintenance allowances from a provident or annuity fund. When it is deemed expedient to exempt from such attachment salaries of public officers and wages of labourers, it is much more expedient to exempt the maintenance allowances of widows and orphans. We hope the prayer of the memorialists will not be rejected on the ground that they are too late.

LAST SATURDAY the Evening Party in honor of Sir Henry Norman was held at the Town Hall About three hundred persons, ladies and gentlemen, were present. We expected a larger gathering of Europeans than we had the pleasure of witnessing; the native gentlemen, however, mustered strong, being perhaps more than one half of the whole assembly. This fact affords another proof that the natives do feel grateful for any little service done to them. The arrangements made were good, and those who were present at the assembly passed a very pleasant evening.

THE HON'BLE ASHLEY EDEN has put an end to one of the grossest jobs of Sir George Campbell. He has abolished the Deputy Commissioner of Wards' Estates, Behar. This appointment was created by Sir George Campbell five years ago to provide for one of his proteges, who was a waif from the Central Provinces. This officer was allowed a salary of Rs. 2000 a month paid out of the Wards' Estates Fund. Mr. Eden is quite satisfied that there is no necessity for entertaining such a highly paid officer, and has accordingly abolished him and appointed a Deputy Collector instead on Rs. 500 per mensem.

MORE CHANGES. We believe it is definitively settled that Mr. Pitt Kennedy officiates for Mr. Justice Pontifex and Mr. H. T. Prinsep for Mr. Justice Kemp on the bench of the High Court. Better selections could not have been made. The new Judges will strengthen the High Court Bench. Mr. Maclean, Judge of 24-Pergunnas, takes furlough for one year, and Mr. Lawford succeeds him. Mr. Clarke, Secretary to the Bengal Legislative Council, goes on leave, and Mr. Forsyth takes his place. Mr. Riely succeeds Mr. Forsyth as Clerk of the Crown. Mr. Dickens becomes Chief Magistrate of Calcutta under the new Presidency Magistrates' Act. We do not know whether this appointment carries increase of pay. It is not known who succeeds Mr. Pitt Kennedy as Standing Counsel. We are told that the senior members of the bar are not likely to take this appointment, but if it be given to a junior, we hope the claims of the native barristers, some of whom are of a higher standing than the juniors who have been named to us, will not be overlooked. Surely it cannot be said that this is one of those appointments, which reasons of State require should be reserved for Europeans only. As for the qualifications of the native barristers, the success of those at the head of this body shews that they are following very close the senior and veteran members of the bar.

WE THANK Dr. King, Superintendent, Royal Botanical Gardens, Howrah, for a copy of his pamphlet on Cinchona Febrifuge, or mixed Cinchona Alkaloid, with a sample of the preparation. This medicine, we are told, has been found to be as efficient as Quinine in the cure of fever in like doses, while its cost is very greatly less. The Cinchona Febrifuge is issued by Government at a very low price so that it may be accessible to the poorest. We are informed that a London preparation called Quinetum, which is an exact imitation of it costs about double the price. We publish in another column an advertizement on the subject, to which we invite the attention of native practitioners.

THE Thirteenth Annual Conversazione of the Mahomedan Literary Society passed off with the usual *eclat*. His Excellency the Viceroy was present, and took a lively interest in the scientific experiments and exhibitions got up for the occasion. His Excellency stayed for about an hour. The arrangements made were creditable to the well known Secretary of the Society, Moulvi Abdul Lutief Khan Bahadur.

WE ARE glad to observe that the Madras Government is acting upon its own judgment in the disposal of Government stores of rice. The following telegram has been received by the *Statesman*:

Madras, March 15.—A Letter of the Government of India to the Secretary of State, dated the 9th instant, says, they have suggested to the Madras Government the sale to reserve grain consisting of 26 000 tons, on the plea that it will effectually dispel any apprehension of interference on the part of Government with private trade The Madras Government on the 21st ultimo wrote to the Chamber of Commerce, saying that the reserve would be strictly held against emergencies in the district depots. Sales of Government grain at present would completely paralyze trade, ruin many merchants and drive others entirely out of the trade, thus leaving to Government the whole burden of supplying the famine districts with food, a task utterly beyond their power except at enormous cost.

16.—I have ascertained that the Madras Government does not intend following the suggestion of the Supreme Government to sell reserve stock of grain.

We hope the Government of India will abandon the policy of meddle and muddle.

THE ENGLISHMAN is again blundering about the action of the Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta on the subject of sanitary reform. We deny that they oppose the Health-Officer. If they objected to the filling up of tanks with sweepings, they simply followed the advice of Dr. Smith, the late Sanitary Commissioner of Bengal. It is true that Dr. Smith's opinion is opposed to that of Dr. Payne, but who shall decide when doctors disagree? As for the improvement of the Taltolla bustee it so happens that the drainage works have been nearly completed within the Taltolla section, and whatever remains to be done has been sanctioned by the Drainage Committee. We are aware that the Commissioners have not agreed to a survey of the bustee, but they proceed upon Dr. Payne's own opinion that one bustee is typical of the other, and if so, they justly urge that the scheme of improvement may fitly be carried out in those bustees, which have already been surveyed and mapped out. It is alleged that the survey made under Sir Stuart Hogg was entirely wrong, but it is forgotten that it was held under the supervision of no less an authority than Mr. Bradford Leslie, for which the Justices had sanctioned Rs

5,000. What guarantee is there that the new survey may not be condemned by those coming after the present incumbents ?

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

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ERRATUM.

Read Mohendronauth Ghosaul, Cawnpore for Mohendronath Ghose ... 6 10 0

Government Notifications.

Calcutta Gazette.—*March* 14, 1877.

Mr. C. H. Richardson, Judge of Nuddea, subsidiary leave not exceeding thirty days.

Baboo Bejoykissen Bose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Manbhoom, transferred to Darjeeling.

Baboo Purnachunder Roy, Sub-Deputy Collector, 1st Grade, Baraset, 24-Pergunnahs, to act as Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector in Manbhoom.

Baboo Umurchunder Bose, Subordinate Executive service, employed under the Court of Wards, to be a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector in the Patna Division.

Mr. C. T. Metcalfe, C.S.I., Offg. Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, leave for 15 days from 14th instant.

Mr. J. A. Crawford, C.S., subsidiary leave for seven days from 5th March 1877.

Extension of three months' furlough to Mr. W. Wavell, C.S., and six months' medical leave to Mr. W. R. Millar, C.S., granted by the Secretary of State.

Baboo Bunkubehary Buxee, Offg. Sub-Deputy Collector, Deoghur, transferred to Rajmehal.

Mr. George Dias to act as a Sub-Deputy Collector of the 1st Grade in Backergunge.

Mr. J. Whitmore, C.S., furlough for nine months, and subsidiary leave not exceeding thirty days from 20th ultimo.

Baboo Santprosad, Offg. Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, posted to Monghyr.

Moulvi Imdad Ali, Canoongo 1st grade Sonthal Pergunnah to act as a Sub-Deputy at Jamooie, in Monghyr.

Moulvi Najimuddin Ahmed, Canoongo, 1st grade, Purneah, to act as a Sub-Deputy Collector in that district.

Babu Sheebhoosun Dutt Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, transferred from Godda to Maldah.

Mr. J. Nugent, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, in charge of the Bettiah Division, Champarun District, allowed leave for six months, and subsidiary leave not exceeding 30 days.

Mr. G. S. Park to be a Magistrate and Collector of the 2nd grade. Mr. Park will continue to act as a Magistrate and Collector of the 1st grade.

Mr. F. W. R. Cowley, on furlough, to be a Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector, 1st grade.

Mr. J. Boxwell, to be Settlement Officer, Midnapore. Mr. J. Boxwell will continue to act as Deputy Commissioner, Sonthal Pergunnah, 1st grade.

Mr. L. R. Forbes, Assistant Commissioner, Palamow, vested with special appellate powers under section 87, Act VII. (B. C.) of 1876.

Captain F. H. Lewin, allowed six months extension of leave on medical certificate by the Secretary of State.

Babu Gosain Doss Dutt, Acting Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector posted to Hooghly.

Babu Radha Madhub Bose, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Hooghly, transferred to Manbhoom.

Mr. R. H. Pawsey, officiating Magistrate and Collector, Mymensingh, privilege leave for one month from 1st February 1877.

Mr. F. H. Pellow, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Hooghly, to act as Magistrate and Collector, Beerbhoom.

Mr. F. Clarke, Assistant Secretary to Government of Bengal, Legislative Department, leave for nine months.

Mr. H. V. H. Roberts, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Palamow, to act as District Superintendent of Police, Noakhaily.

Mr. J. H. Travender Clark, Assistant Superintendent, Police, Noakhally, posted to Palamow.

Mr. C. E. Fabre Tonnerre, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Dinagepore, transferred to Rajshye.

Mr. D. Lacey, District Superintendent of Police, on leave, transferred to Jessore.

Mr. J. B. Birch, Assistant Superintendent, Police, posted to Sarun with effect from the date of his being relieved of his present appointment.

Mr. H. Bayley, Officiating Assistant Superintendent of Police, Sarun, transferred to Hazareebaugh.

Babu Bihary Lal Goopta, Special Sub-Registrar, Furreedpore, allowed 21 days privilege leave from 5th instant.

Mr. W. N. Campbell, Officiating Assistant Commissioner, Hazareebaugh, to be Sub-Registrar of that district from 23rd January 1877.

Mr. W. T. Webb, M. A., Professor, Dacca College, to act as Inspector of Schools, Eastern Circle in the 3rd class, Bengal Educational Service.

Mr. A. Ewbank, M. A., Principal Dacca College, to act in the 2nd class, Bengal Educational Service.

Mr. G. Bellet, M. A., Principal, Berhampore College, to act as Inspector of Schools, Rajshye Circle.

Baboo Prosunnocoomar Surbadhicarry, Principal Sanskrit College, to act as Principal Berhampore College.

Pundit Mohesbchunder Nyayratna, Professor, Sanskrit College, to act as Principal of that institution.

Baboo Bhoodeb Mookerjee, Inspector of Schools, Behar Circle, to act in the first class of the Bengal Educational Service.

Mr. A. W. Garrett, B.A., Inspector of Schools, Presidency Circle, is appointed to act in the second class of the Bengal Educational Service.

Baboo Isurchunder Bose, Head-master, Govt. School, Pubna, to be a Member and Secretary to the District School Committee, Pubna.

Surgeon-Major T. Dukas, subsidiary leave of thirty days commenced on the 25th February 1877.

Assistant Surgeon Doyalkissen Ghose, in charge, Charitable Dispensary at Sultangachee, allowed leave for three months.

Assistant Surgeon Buttokisto Dutt to have charge of the Sultangachee Charitable Dispensary.

Assistant Surgeon Chundercoomar Gupta was in charge of the Dispensary and Subdivision of Sasseeram from forenoon of 5th September to forenoon of 2nd November 1876.

Assistant Surgeon Heeralal Bose, a supernumerary at the Presidency, allowed leave up to the 8th February last.

Baboo Poornochunder Roy, B.L., to act as First Moonsif of Noakholly.

Baboo Benodebehary Mitter, B.L., to act temporarily as Moonsif of Krishnuggur, in Nuddea.

Baboo Banimadhub Mitter, B.L., Moonsiff of Goalundo, to act as Moonsiff of Krishnuggur, on being relieved of his present duties as Offg. Judge of the Small Cause Courts at Dacca and Moonshegunge.

Baboo Kedarnath Muzoomdar, Moonsif of Perozepore, in Backergunge, to act as Moonsif of Goalundo.

Baboo Okhoycoomar Sen, B.L., to act as Moonsif of Perozepore.

Baboo Sharatchunder Mookerjee, B.L., to officiate as Moonsif of Buxar, in Shahabad.

Mr. J. W. Johnson, Assistant Engineer, First Grade, and Executive Engineer, (temporary rank) Fourth Grade, attached to Dacca Division, furlough for one year.

Mr. G. W. Vivian, Executive Engineer, first grade, assumed charge of the Dacca Division on the forenoon of the 20th February 1877.

Advertisements.

NOTICE.

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NOTICE

A Public Meeting of the Native inhabitants of Calcutta will be held at the Town Hall on Saturday the 24th Instant at 3 P. M., to consider the recent charges in the regulations for the admission of candidates to the open competition, for the Indian Civil Service and to take such steps as may be deemed necessary with a view to facilitate the admission to the Civil Service of Natives of India.

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The transfer Register will remain closed from the 12th to 16th instant.

M. RUSTOMJEE,
Calcutta 10th March 1877. Managing Director.

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APRIL, 1874.

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NOTIFICATION.

Under the patronage of Rai Setab Chand Nahar Bahadur of Dinagepur a great fair or mela will take place at Bochaganj about 18 miles west of Dinagepur from the 5th to the 25th day of Chaitra, corresponding with 17th March to 6th April 1877, where dealers of elephants, horses and articles of various descriptions shall meet with ready purchasers and shall be amply rewarded according to the quality of their goods and livestock. Be it understood that the famous Neekmardum mela shall take place on the 25th of the said month of Chaitra.

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This medicine, the ingredients whereof consist purely of country and hill vegetables, has wrought a miracle in the cure of various complicated diseases which have baffled the skill of the most eminent physicians.

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Price for a phial is Rs. 5 8 0
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Hem Chunder Banerjea,
Missirpokhar, Benares.

TRANSLATION OF VERNACULAR TESTIMONIALS.

I have bought your "Amritarasa" to the amount of Rs. 150. This is a very wonderful medicine. We are quite surprised to see its wonderful power to cure various intricate diseases. In cases of Colic pain (sool) Asthma, Consumption, Chronic Fever, Dyspepsia, Dysentery and Hysteria, its efficacy has been fully observed.

Koylash Chunder Roymohasoy,
Zemindar and Hony. Magistrate;
Dehoorda Zillah, Baleshwar.

Last Bysakh my wife was laid up with various complicated diseases, so much so that there was no means of saving her life. In this state your Amritarasa was administered to her, and she is perfectly cured now.

Issur Chunder Roy Chowdhry,
Bahalgram, Raigunge.

Your Amritarasa being administered to my wife, her diseases seems to be in a great measure checked. The bodily weakness is much less than before. The pain in the stomach is not entirely cured yet, but I hope, from the state she is now in, that by continuing the medicine longer, she might possibly get completely cured, for the disease is not of a short standing.

Shusi Bhusun Haldar,
Deputy Magistrate of Mathabhanga;
Zillah Kuch Behar.

The curative virtue of your Amritarasa is widely known, and I am very happy to see some patients wonderfully cured by it. I do not know what amount of virtue you are acquiring by saving thousands from untimely death.

Chowdhry Protap Narain Roy,
Zemindar of Bansidiha.

By using your Amritarasa continually my disease has been checked in a great measure. My health is progressing, and I have gained much liveliness. Hoping to be perfectly cured by the use of a few bottles more.

Chowdhry Narain Chunder Roy Bahadoor,
Chooramun in Malda.

Babu Motilal Lahery of the Sub-Division Dhubri and some others have been cured by the use of your famous Amritarasa.

Roy Protap Chunder Barua Bahadoor,
Zemindar of Gouripoor, Dhubri.

I once tried your excellent medicine (Amritarasa) in chronic Headache, and the infallible result duly communicated to you. Now I have much pleasure to inform you again that I have tested its efficacy in some cases of Chronic Fever and Spleen with wonderful effect.

I have also cured 8 Cholera cases by your valuable pills—it is the only best reliable remedy yet found.

Rajendra Nath Datta,
Secy. of Rama N. P. Club.

I have much pleasure to inform you that I have been able to cure 50 cases out of 51, who were suffering under complicated diseases. In conclusion I assure you that your Amritarasa is a very efficacious medicine, and the further circulation of it, is indispenibly requisite.

Purno Chunder Banerjea,
Member of Chinsurah Club.

One phial of your Amritarasa has done a good deal of good to my younger brother, who was suffering from a long time under Dysentery, Chronic Fever and Spleen. The 1st and 2nd diseases have altogether disappeared, and the Spleen is much better, and hope, will be cured in another bottle.

Dukhina Perda Roy Chowdhry,
Mohesrakha.

A phial of your Amritarasa was bought by me and given to a woman who was suffering too much from Chronic Fever and other complicated diseases; and I am very glad to inform you that she is wonderfully cured by the use of the same.

Bonomally Paul.
Goonotea *via* Sainthia.

Last year by using your valuable Amritarasa. I am perfectly cured of Chronic Colic pain (sool), from which I suffered.

Joygobind Dutt,
Jatanpookhu *via* Jalpaiguri.

Your Amritarasa is very efficacious. My friend was suffering from fever for 7 years, from Spleen for 5 years and from Dysentery for 1 year, and was exceedingly weak. He used one phial of your Amritarasa, and is much better now The fever is cured, ¾th of the Spleen is reduced, and in place of about 12 bloody stools daily he has 2 or 3 motions now without blood.

Jogendra Chunder Bosu,
Ghutiabazar, Hugli.

Since a year I had been suffering from fever and cough. Having tried in vain various native and European medicines, I was at last completely cured by using your widely known Amritarasa.

Romanath Banerjea,
Huripur, Zillah Dinagepoor.

My poor letter can describe very little the virtue of your valuable medicine known throughout this part of the world. Often do I hear that many persons in these localities are saved from the attack of many dreadful and fatal diseases by means of your kindness. We have seen that Rabu Radha Mohun Mookerjea is cured of a long standing Dyspepsia of an aggravated form, and his wife of a chronic asthma in a short time. Amritarasa (*i. e.* a drink which prevents death) is really achieving what its name imports.

Shama Churn Mittra,
Deputy Post-master, Bansdiha.

My brother has derived great benefit by using your Amritarasa. His colic (sool) pain and rumbling of the stomach are cured.

Prosunno Coomar Dass,
Ratnapur, Moorshidabad.

Your Amritarasa was use in a case of Fistula, the sore is cured, there being now only a spot in the place.

Gobind Chunder Sett,
Fansidewa, Darjeeling.

My venerable father was suffering under fever, cough, and * * * from a long time. He used 3 bottles of your valuable Amritarasa, (though he was unable to use it regularly), and his fever and cough are perfectly cured, * * * *

Burneshw rMookerjea,
Chooramun, Zilla Malda.

Those who used your valuable medicine Amritarasa here, have all been perfectly cured.

Loke Nath Bosu,
Kuttack.

INFALLIBLE CHOLERA PILLS.

This is a most efficacious medicine of Cholera ever discovered. The result appears from my Register already published that more than 90 per cent. cases were cured in 1875.

It is also a sovereign remedy for Sunstroke. This dangerous disease is cured in about half an hour, as if by magic.

The pills does not contain opium, chillies, poison or any intoxicating drug and can be safely used by women advanced in pregnancy and so by infants.

Cost for 50 Pills which can cure about 20 persons is Rs. 5 only. Certificates from gentlemen are annexed below.

HEM CHUNDER BANERJEA,
Missirpokhar, Benares.

I have the honor to inform you that your medicine for cholera was received here when the disease had nearly disappeared from the town. It was however administered in 2 cases with successful result.

Sd. W. R. LARMINE.
Magistrate of Bankura.

I am very glad to say that your Cholera pills have cured all the 10 cases in which they were administered.

(Sd.) D. V. SAPRAY,
Bankipur.

I am requested by the Maharaja of Burdwan to inform you that during the recent outbreak of Cholera in this place, your pills were tried in several cases which occurred among the servants of His Highness and were found to be efficacious. In all these cases the medicine was administered in the early stage of the disease but in one case in which it was administered to a patient who was in an advanced stage it was powerless and the man died.

(Sd.) T. B. MILLER,
Private Secretary.

Your Cholera pills are really infallible. Not being a professional man I was afraid to try your medicine at first, but I administered it in 3 cases given up by the Doctors as hopeless. Two of the patients recovered quickly within 6 hours by using only two pills each. The other a child took one pill which stopped his purging, vomitting, perspiration and spasm and caused a discharge of urine, but unfortunately at this stage his parents gave him some other medicine. The result was the disease relapsed and the child died.

(Sd.) BIPIN BEHARI DUTT,
Station Master Doomraw.

The few Cholera pills that you kindly gave me when I went to Gya in the Cholera season, have wonderfully saved the lives of 13 persons from that fatal disease.

(Sd.) RAMCHUNDER PUNDIT,
Sanscrit College, Benares.

I have to inform you that I could not give a fair trial to your medicine during the late outbreak of cholera here. Strictly speaking I treated 2 cases exclusively with your pills and found them efficacious.

I tried the pills in 10 more cases when they had already had other medicines and their disease had sufficiently advanced. However I am glad to say that those that had the fortune to live for some hours after the administration of your medicine, had the action of their kidny established, though mostly died subsequently. Of these ten cases only 2 actually recovered.

From this short trial I cannot arrive at any conclusion though I do not feel myself disappointed.

(Sd.) KHURGESHUR BOSE,
Asst. Surgeon Akyab.

I have much pleasure to say that I have been able to cure 80 cholera cases out of 86 by the use of Babu Hem Chunder Banerjea's Cholera pills in 1875. All these cases were personally treated by me gratis among the Pilgrims. On the subject I have been examined by the Civil Surgeon of Benares who has retained the papers in which the result of my treatment is recorded.

(Sd.) GOPINATH SOOKUL,
Benares.

Last month the Cholera Pills brought from you, were administered to 6 patients, and am very glad to say that all of them were perfectly cured. Cholera medicine, like this, has not yet been discovered All the patients were cured within six hours.

Gopal Chunder Banerjea,
Native Doctor, Chupra.

Your Cholera medicine is the best one yet discovered. Many persons were cured by its use.

Parmeshwar Bedratna,
Umbica Rajbatty, Kulna.

The good effect of your Cholera Pills cannot be expressed in writing. It was tried in 18 cases among the coolies here. I am very glad to say that all of them have recovered without a single failure.

Moheeooddeen,
In charge, Tea Garden, Koorkurea.

The Cholera Pills sent by you were administered to 5 patients, and the result is that all of them have been cured.

Radha Bulove Sing Deb,
Zemindar, Bankura.

Many thanks for the Cholera Pills you kindly set me I have tried it in several cases with successful result.

Zahurul Hossain,
Dewan of Talibpur Estate.

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H. TOBIN,
Honorary Secretary.

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SUPPLEMENT TO

THE HINDOO PATRIOT.

CALCUTTA :—MONDAY, MARCH 19, 1877.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

13TH FEBRUARY, 1877.

MR. FAWCETT ON INDIAN FINANCE.

(Specially Reported for the Hindoo Patriot.)

MR. FAWCETT, in moving that a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the finance and financial administration of India, said :—During the recess it has happened that not a few of us, who sit on these benches because we have held certain opinions in reference to the events which are occurring in Eastern Europe, have been again and again reproached with being unmindful of the vital interest which England has in her Indian Empire. I am therefore glad to have an opportunity on one of the earliest days of the session, through the courtesy of my two honorable friends, the members for Peterborough and the county of Cork. (Mr. Whalley and Mr. Downing) of bringing forward a motion which will afford the House an opportunity of showing that, whatever opinions certain of us may hold with regard to events happening in the East, our interest is not thereby one jot or tittle diminished in any thing that concerns the welfare of the people of India. The most cursory acquaintance with Indian affairs will, I think, satisfy any one that every thing connected with the administration of that great dependency, every thing that may be brought forward to promote the well-being of her people, is inextricably bound up with the present condition of her finances. A great statesman some years ago said that the key of our position in India was finance, and if that remark were true, then it is doubly true now. Events are each year happening which more conclusively show that no service that can be rendered to India is of such pressing importance as to place her finances in a more satisfactory position. But before I proceed to explain the reasons on which I base this opinion, I wish to direct the attention of the House, and particularly that of the Government, to some special reasons which induce me to ask for inquiry on the present occasion. It will probably be in the recollection of many honorable members that as long ago as 1871 the then Prime Minister, my right honorable friend, the member for Greenwich, (Mr. Gladstone) moved for the appointment of a Committee to inquire into the finances of India, a motion which was unanimously agreed to. Anxious to follow in the footsteps of such an illustrious authority my motion this evening is identical in its terms with that brought forward by my right honorable friend six years ago. When the late Prime Minister made that motion he thought the inquiry was of such unusual importance that, in the first instance, he proposed that the Committee should be a joint one composed of members drawn from both branches of the legislature. This suggestion not meeting with general favour in the House was abandoned, but the debate to which it gave rise was very significant, and has a most important bearing on the question we are now considering. Speaker after speaker upon the conservative benches and upon these benches also held this doctrine, which was endorsed by the then Leader of the Opposition, that it was wrong to ask for a joint Committee of the two Houses to inquire into a question of Indian Finance. And why? Because, they said, Indian Finance is above all things a subject to be dealt with by the House of Commons, as it is a question, which vitally concerns the interests of English tax-payers; and the then Leader of the Opposition, the present Prime Minister, used on that occasion these memorable words "the ill-management of Indian Finance must recoil ultimately upon the financial resources of this country." Well, in consequence of these opinions the late Prime Minister did not press for a joint Committee, but a Committee of this House was nominated, consisting of 32 members, and including some of those holding the most important positions in the present Government. Although the Committee sat during the three Sessions of 1871, 1872, and 1873, the subject which had to be inquired into extended over so wide a field, and such a great amount of evidence had to be taken, that at the close of 1873, the last Session be it remembered of the late Parliament, the inquiry was not completed, and the Committee unanimously recommended that they should be re-appointed. Now, who joined in that recommendation? Why, among those who voted for it I find the present Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Home Secretary. That being so, I think I may fairly ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Home Secretary, who, I understand, are going to refuse the Committee which I ask for, to state in very explicit language what has happened in India during the last six years to make them think that Indian Finances, which in 1873 required a most scrutinising examination from a Committee of this House, now no longer need the same close investigation. Does the Chancellor of the Exchequer think that the events which have happened in India during the last three years diminish the force of the arguments in favour of further inquiry? Does he think that the occurrence of two terrible famines within that brief period, famines which have and will, I fear, put a severe strain upon the financial resources of India, can be pleaded as a reason why the House of Commons should concern itself less with Indian finance? Does he think that what was brought to light last year by a Committee of this House, over which my right honorable friend, the member for the city of London presided, (Mr. Goschen) should make us less solicitous about India's present financial condition? Was not the grave inconvenience then with a striking reality shown of having permitted the Home Charges to so constantly increase that now nearly one-third of the entire revenue of India is spent in this country? Surely one who has put forward as a foremost article in his own financial policy the duty and importance of reducing the National Debt of England cannot view with complacency the constant additions which are made to the debt of India, and cannot think it a subject which needs no inquiry, that India's financial position is one of such extreme tension that all her resources seem to be so entirely exhausted that any item of exceptional expenditure can only be met by a fresh loan? (Hear, hear). This indubitably is the position of Indian Finance at the present moment. But I will lay before the House and the Government other and special reasons why I think nothing can be more unfortunate than any attempt to resist this Committee of Enquiry. I do not know whether the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Home Secretary have in the midst of their multitudinous engagements had time to look back to the recommendations to which they agreed. But if they do so they will find that the Committee joined in recommending its re-appointment in 1873, not simply because the inquiry had not been completed, but especially because only two natives of India had been examined and the committee "had received a communication from Her Majesty's Government that steps would be taken to provide for the expense of natives of India who might be selected by the Government and approved by the committee to attend before them for the purpose of giving evidence in accordance with the recommendation contained in their former report; and arrangements were being made for the attendance of these witnesses before the Committee at the commencement of the next session." (Hear, hear.) It is not necessary for me to justify the expediency or the wisdom of calling this native evidence. It is not my recommendation. It is the unanimous recommendation of a Committee of which the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Home Secretary were members; and I think the House will agree with me that I have a right to ask why, if in 1873 they thought it was desirable that some natives of India should have an opportunity of giving evidence before the Committee, they think it less desirable now that a similar opportunity should be afforded to the people of that country of making their wishes and their wants known in regard to the question of finance. Under these circumstances, if the accidental occurence of a General Election and a change of Government are used to bar further inquiry, what is the interpretation which will be put upon the proceeding by the people of India? I do not wish to say a single word that may tend in the slightest degree to embarass those who are responsible for the Government of Indian finance at this moment, but I am constrained to say that if inquiry should be now resisted the effect will be to produce unfavourable impression in India. The inquiry, it will be said, was allowed to go on until some of the people themselves were to be called upon to give evidence, and then the whole thing was got rid of by a side wind, which, I am afraid, will be regarded as a somewhat unworthy and ungenerous device. But I think I shall be able to shew that what has happened since the present Parliament was called together affords even stronger arguments in favour of my motion than those which I have already adduced. On the 20th of April, 1874, the present Under Secretary for India moved for the appointment of a Select Committee to investigate the Home Charges. At that time I was not a member of the House, having been among the many victims who had been sacrificed at the General Election. But so far as I can discover from the records of the House the Committee was moved for without a word of explanation from the Under-Secretary, and the motion was agreed to by the House without a word of debate. Therefore, so far as the records of the House are concerned I have no means of knowing why the scope of the old Committee was altered, but I have been told that it was altered on this ground, that the Government in 1874, still recognising the desirability of having an inquiry into Indian finance, thought it would be better that the inquiry should, as it were, be divided into distinct departments But whether this be so or not, I think it must be obvious that even with the inquiry thus restricted it would have opened a wide field. The fact at any rate remains, that the present Government and the present Parliament unanimously agreed to an inquiry in 1874. The Committee was nominated on the 30th of April. It consisted of 21 members, a member of the present Government, the right hon. gentleman, the member for Shorsham (Mr. Cave) presiding. It begun taking evidence on the 12th of May, and on the 20th of July a report was unanimously agreed to, in which it is stated: "In conclusion, your Committee would suggest that, as they have not had time to investigate the various Home charges which are not connected with military expenditure, they should be re-appointed next session." They go on to say. "As much evidence was taken in reference to these charges by the Indian Finance Committee, which sat during the three previous Sessions, it is probable that the inquiry might be completed within a reasonable period." Now, what attention was paid to this unanimous recommendation of the Committee? I do not like to use strong language or else I would say that the Government treated it with contempt. But I will say this that that recommendation has certainly been as completely ignored as if it had never been made. For what happened in the Session of 1875? The Under-Secretary on behalf of the Government, instead of moving for the re-appointment of this Committee, which have been unanimously recommended, came forward with a proposal for the appointment of a Committee to inquire into the grievances of certain Indian Officers, an investigation which could not diminish but which might and did add, to the charges on the revenues of India. And now the House might fairly ask, "why did you not object at the time?" Well, I know I ought to have done so, but we are all of us prone to be sometimes in a somewhat too conciliatory mood, somewhat too yielding, somewhat too unsuspecting (Hear, hear, and laughter). I fear I fell into this error myself. I can only say that I will try not to commit a similar mistake again. I will be more upon my guard in future. I was misledby the ordinary excuse put forward, "Oh! this Committee is not intended to supersede the Finance, it is only wanted by the Department, and will only hold a few sittings." But it did supersede the Finance Committee, and nothing has been heard of that Committee, the re-appointment of which was unanimously recommended, up to this hour. What took place in 1876? The Government then, I admit, had a somewhat better excuse. Another financial catastrophe, I might almost say, but at any rate, another financial event of great moment, happened in India, and the Government came down almost in a state of perplexity and asked the House of Commons, asked especially my right hon. friend, the member for the city of London (Mr. Goschen) to come forward and help them in their difficulties, and see whether they could throw any light upon the causes which had brought about the depreciation in the value of silver whereby the most serious loss had been inflicted upon India. If the Government now intend to resist my motion, I cannot divine to what excuse they will resort. I have heard it rumoured that they mean to plead that the officials at the India Office and in India cannot be bothered with Parliamentary Committees when they have a famine on their hands. But the Government are absolutely precluded by their own words and acts from saying that no further inquiry is needed. They themselves moved for a Committee similar to that which I now ask for, in 1874, when the Bengal famine was at the very height of its intensity. Happily, it is unnecessary for me to bring forward any opinion of my own to support a demand for renewed inquiry. In 1873 the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Home Secretary, and two other members of the Government united in asking the House to grant further inquiry. At the close of the Session of 1874 the same demand was renewed by the official representative of India in this House, and by every other member of the Committee. But if the Government should plead that an inquiry such as I propose will prove embarassing to officials, I think we have a right to ask on what evidence they base that statement. For instance, are they prepared to say that the person who held the highest official position in India during the whole time that the late Finance Committee was carrying on its inquiry—I refer to the late Governor General, Lord Northbrook, considered an inquiry by this House into Indian affairs was an embarrassment to the Government of India? Are they prepared to deny that he considered that it rather strengthened his hands and was calculated to promote the cause of good Government in India? Again, I will refer to the opinion of one who has more official experience of India than possibly any other member of this House. I refer to my hon. friend the member for Kirkcaldy (Sir George Campbell) who will second the motion. Surely my honorable friend, considering his long and distinguished career in India, has as much right as any one to say what would be likely to give satisfaction to the people of that country, and whether any particular course that may be proposed is likely to interfere with the work of financial administration in India. There is nothing I should more deeply regret than to say a single word which would add to the difficulties of those who are responsible for the Government of India at a time of no little anxiety, but I feel bound to say that a refusal to grant inquiry and a determination to arrest it just at the point when some of the people of India themselves would have an opportunity of being heard, will inevitably suggest many suspicions, and undoubtedly produce a most unfavourable impression throughout the length and breadth of that country. So far as I have been able to judge, those who have had most experience of official life in India are those who are most anxious for the fullest and freest investigation, and I believe I shall be able to show that the events of the last three years have given renewed force to every consideration which prompted the late Government in 1871 and the present Government in 1874 to propose Committees of inquiry. Within that very brief period different parts of India have been visited by two widespread famines, involving an expenditure which it has been altogether beyond the power of the ordinary revenue to meet. An addition of, probably not less than £12,000,000 will consequently have to be made to the debt of India. To a country as wealthy as England such an expenditure would be serious; to a country as poor as India it is disastrous and perilous. So severely have all the means of new and increased taxation in India been strained, so completely have all the sources of revenue been used up, that when any emergency occurs it has to be met by increased borrowing. What must be the result of perpetually borrowing? A day of reckoning will come as surely as day succeeds night or as summer succeeds winter. This increased borrowing can in the end lead to no other result than increased taxation, and increased taxation, as we have been told by one whose warning the present Government should at least heed, would be, in the present condition of India, a "political danger the magnitude of which cannot be over-estimated." (Hear, Hear.) These are not my words They are the words of one whom many of us remember. They are the words of an illustrious Governor-General of India whom we all respected, and whose untimely end we all deplored. I refer to Lord Mayo. Then again look at what was the condition of Indian famine last year when for a time the value of silver was depreciated. I am anxious as far as possible to rest every statement which I make, not so much upon my own authority, as upon the opinions of those whose position gives weight to any thing they may say upon this subject. Sir William Muir, a statesman whose judgment we have reason to respect, has stated that the depreciation in the value of silver, "from whatever point of view considered, is the gravest danger which has yet threatened the finances of India." No doubt the danger has for a time been averted. There has been a recovery in the value of silver, but he would be a bold man who would say that its value is certain to be maintained. Now this being the case, let me particularly direct the attention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to what I am about to say. A Com-

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mittee was appointed last year, known as the Silver Committee, over which my right honorable friend, the member for the city of London, presided with an ability which was recognised by every member of that Committee (Hear hear.) Now what was the conclusion to which that committee came? It is a point particularly worthy of the consideration of the House. The conclusion to which they came was this, that of the many causes which had contributed to depreciate the value of silver none had been more potent in its influence than the constant increase in the Home Indian charges which had for years been going on. Now three years ago, when the effect which this increase in the Home Charges might have in depreciating the value of silver and in bringing upon India that serious danger about Sir William Muir speaks had not been recognized, the Government said (at the end of 1874) that a Committee ought to be appointed to continue the inquiry with regard to the increase of the Home Charges. But now that they discover that these charges have gone on increasing and that they may have an important effect in producing the depreciation of silver, they, I presume, are going to say, "oh yes, at the end of 1874 it was of the utmost importance that a Committee should inquire into the cause which produced an increase in those charges, but now in 1877 any one who proposes an inquiry into Indian Finance is proposing that which is superfluous and unnecessary. We must resist it as an unwarrantable interference: we won't gratify your unreasoning curiousity." It may be said: "The motion you have brought forward is extremely wide in its scope. Well, as I said before, I have been anxious to follow in the footsteps of a distinguished authority in this House, and I have followed the exact words in which the original Committee was moved for by one whom all parties will recognise as a leader in this House on financial questions the right honorable member for Greenwich (Hear, hear.) If he moved for a Committee in 1871 to inquire into the finances and the financial administration of India, I think I have a right to say that there were then good and cogent reasons why he brought forward his motion for the Committee in this particular form. I might of course have easily indicated what in my own opinion were the most important points which the Committee should investigate, but I thought it would show more deference to the House, if instead of doing this, I left that question to be decided by the Committee itself should it be appointed. But I will say here that it is not difficult to enumerate some points which urgently need investigation. In 1873—I am anxious again to refer to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Home Secretary in a report to which they then agreed, expressed a very keen desire to know how it had come to pass that there had been a great increase in Indian military expenditure accompanied by considerable reduction in the numerical strength of the army.

If then they were so anxious to have some light thrown on this important fact can they think it unreasonable that we, following their example, should show a similar anxiety and eagerness in 1877? (Hear, hear.) Again, I think every financier of authority has admitted that it is impossible to hope that Indian Finance can ever be placed on a satisfactory and intelligible basis as long as the distinction between ordinary and extraordinary expenditure is maintained. The experience derived from the continent should warn us that this resort to extraordinary budgets has not unfrequently been the last desperate resource of embarassed Governments (cheers). Again, the Public Works expenditure is in a state of inextricable confusion. No one can tell what are the financial results of any work which has been executed, and again it has been discovered that when great sums of money have been lost, for instance in the Madras irrigation and other works—by blundering and mismanagement, the Public Works department is in such a state of confusion that I will defy any one to fasten the responsibility on the particular person whose mismanagement has caused such a waste of money. (Hear hear.) Again, honorable members opposite have often displayed in this House a great zeal in the cause of reform of local taxation. I can assure them that in India the subject of local taxation would provide an inexhaustible field for their reforming zeal. With regard to pensions the system upon which they are granted in India requires to be most carefully considered and revised. Things are permitted with regard to pensions drawn from the revenues of India which would never be permitted with regard to pensions paid out of the English revenue; and we should bear in mind that greatly as we may condemn extravagance and waste in our own country, yet England is so rich and India so poor that waste and extravagance, while serious here, become disastrous and may produce greatest possible mischief in India. I will mention one instance, I am subject to the correction of those who have had official experience, but I believe it is the invariable rule in the English Civil service that if a gentleman obtains a pension and afterwards obtains employment again in the Civil service, his pension ceases during the time of that employment. This is what is done in a rich country like England. It is not what is done in a poor country like India, for I do not like to mention names, which is invidious, but the records of evidence which have been taken will show any one who likes to refer to them that there are in the Indian Service people who are in receipt of full pensions and in some instances I believe of two pensions, and who are at the same time in the enjoyment of full salaries for employment. These are some of the things which require investigation, and if I were not afraid of wearying the House I could go on hour after hour mentioning things demanding similar inquiry (Hear hear.) It may be said the inquiry you propose is so wide that it will never come to an end. This was not the opinion of the committees of 1873 and 1874; and it seems to me we are almost stultifying ourselves if this House, having on two separate occasions appointed a Committee, never affords to these Committees the opportunity of bringing their deliberations to a conclusion and formally stating the conclusions at which they have arrived. It must be borne in mind that the work of the new Committee would be greatly accelerated because the evidence taken in previous years could be referred to it. That evidence exists in a most convenient form. I am anxious to recognise the services rendered by one no longer a member of this House. If any one will turn to the evidence taken in 1871, 1872 and 1873 he will find that it has been with the most admirable industry and skill summarised, analyzed and indexed by the gentleman who presided over the Committee with so much ability, I refer to Mr. Ayrton. (Hear, hear.) Before I resume my seat I am bound to refer to the notification of the honorable member for Cambridge (Mr. Smollett) who moves an amendment to the notification which I move this evening. It seems to me a very curious amendment. I cannot understand how it could be brought forward as an amendment and I think I am not misinterpreting his intentions when I say he will not move it in anything like a spirit of hosility to my motion. (Hear, hear from Mr. Smollett). I thought I was right in expressing that opinion. All he intends to do is to indicate more distinctly than I have done the particular points connected with Indian finance on which he thinks it most important for this House to express an opinion. I can at once say that between the honorable member and myself there is no difference of opinion but only a difference of procedure. He thinks the House should pronounce an opinion at once, without further inquiry. I bow to the decision of two Committees who both reported that further inquiry was necessary. Whatever may be my opinion on the points which the honorable member has raised I think considering the opinion these Committees expressed it is more deferential to the House if, before asking it to come to a conclusion on the important points which are raised by the honorable member for Cambridge, I propose a continuation of the inquiry which the two Committees thought to be necessary. (Hear, hear.) I may be premitted to make this remark, that in a previous session I moved a resolution almost identical with the terms of the motion of the honorable member for Cambridge. How was that met by the Treasury Bench? This is particularly worthy the attention of the House and of the honorable member for Cambridge. From the Treasury Bench it was said you have no right to press the House to come to a decision in this resolution. And why did they say I had no right to press the House to come to a decision on this resolution? They said this—"a Committee has been appointed. That Committee has not yet completed its inquiry; and until it has completed its inquiry and until it has had an opportunity of examining and expressing its opinion on the evidence that has been taken you will be treating the House with contempt in asking it to come to a decision on points which the Committee itself has to investigate." Therefore what is the dilemma we are placed in if the Government resist further inquiry? We are reduced to a pitiable do-nothing condition. If a motion like that of the honorable member for Cambridge is brought forward, they say: "You cannot express an opinion upon that resolution; the Committee appointed some time ago has not completed its inquiry." If I ask that the inquiry should be completed, I am told that I am to be resisted because, I suppose, further inquiry would ruffle the tranquil composure of certain officials. Well, I think I have a right to ask the Government to do one thing or the other. (Hear hear.) Let them at once grant further inquiry, or let them at once frankly say, "we disregard the opinions we have ourselves expressed; we set at naught the opinions of two separate committees of the House who said further inquiry was necessary; we think further inquiry superfluous and unnecessary; and we express this opinion in spite of its being in direct contradiction to what we have previously said." If the Government adopted either course we shall know what is their position (Hear, hear.) Before I resume my seat I am going to make an appeal to hon'ble gentlemen opposite. During the protracted debates at the time it was proposed that the Government of India should be transferred from the East India Company to the Crown the leading authorities in this House vied with each other in protesting that India ought never to be made the battle-field of party conflicts. (Cheers.) I think it will be admitted that in Indian debates I have never been actuated by party motives. At any rate I think the hon'ble member of the Elginburghs (Mr. Grant Duff) the late Under-Secretary for India will admit, that when the party to which I belong was in power, he and I were not always in the same lobby on Indian questions; and I think he will also admit that because he and I belonged to the same party I did not give always an undeviating support to everything he proposed and I did not always express unhesitating approval of everything he said. (Hear, hear.) I am entitled, then, I think, to say that even if at the present moment I were sitting on the other side of the House I should just as earnestly and eagerly press for inquiry as I do now. (Hear, hear.) And I should take this course because I feel the force of, and cordially endorse, the words of Lord Salisbury who has said that "the great security for financial justice to India is the constant watchfulness of the House of Commons." (Hear, hear.) If the House of Commons is prepared to exercise this watchfulness no work to which it can devote itself would yield a richer harvests of results. Whatever may be our difference of opinion on other questions we must be all alike anxious that the people of India should be bound to us by the bonds of a stronger loyalty and of an increasing contentment. Costly ceremonials and glittering pageants will be forgotten, but the people of India will never forget, they will never cease to be grateful, if the House of Commons will exercise this watchfulness of which Lord Salisbury speaks. If the House of Commons will show our anxiety to lessen for the people of India the burdens of taxation and to do everything they can to promote good Government, depend upon it that day by day, week by week, and year by year the rulers and the ruled will be bound together in the bonds of a closer union, and our empire—whatever may happen in Central Asia—will be placed upon a firmer and securer basis (Cheers.) I beg, sir, to move the motion.

Mr. Fawcett in replying at the close of the debate said; I shall not detain the House more than two or three minutes and I should not have thought it necessary to rise but for one or two remarks of the Under-Secretary. I am not going over that part of his speech in which he discussed the financial position of India. I agree from one point of view with all he said about the financial condition of India. Omit as he does the extraordinary expenditure and I agree that you can present the finances of India in a flourishing condition. But that is the chief point of the contention between us. I cannot help saying that I regard it as a most hopeful sign that almost every speaker throughout the debate has admitted that the distinction between ordinary and extraordinary expenditure ought not to be maintained, and I feel convinced that this would be conclusively established by the Committee should it be appointed. There is one remark of the Under-Secretary upon which I feel bound after what I said in my opening remarks to utter a word of protest and almost remonstrance. No one, even among the supporters of the Government could have been more careful than I was to recognise the services that Lord Salisbury has rendered to India. I quoted him with the strongest approval. What must have been the surprise of members who did not hear my remarks and who happened to drop into the House when the Under-Secretary was appealing to our grateful recollection of the services Lord Salisbury had rendered at Constantinople, and asking us to oppose this motion as if it would be a censure on the Marquis of Salisbury. Anything more extraordinary I never heard. Did the Home Secretary or the Chancellor of the Exchequer when they voted for a motion exactly similar in terms to this in 1871, consider it a covert vote of censure upon the nobleman who was the Secretary of State? Did the Under-Secretary himself think he was censuring the Secretary of State when he moved for a Committee in 1874? If it never entered into the head of any one that it was intended to supersede his authority I think it is scarcely fair to attempt to bring this argument against me on the present occasion. I have only one other remark to make. The Under-Secretary himself admits that he agreed to the unanimous recommendation of the Committee in 1874 when that Committee reported in favour of their re-appointment, but he says, he has changed his mind. But what evidence is there to make us suppose that the other 20 members including the right honorable gentleman the member of Shoreham, have changed their minds? He says he changed his mind because of one absurd expression in the report. But who drew up the report? It was drawn up by the honorable member for Shoreham and the Under-Secretary himself (a laugh.) And therefore because the Under-Secretary himself has made use of this absurd expression he not only alters his own mind but calmly assumes that the twenty other members must be hostile to the re-appointment of the Committee. He says this is an inconvenient time for any motion. Why? Because, he says there is famine in India at the present time. I admit this; but when he himself proposed a Committee in 1874 the Bengal famine was at that very moment at its height. If the Under-Secretary did not consider that the existence of a famine in 1874 was any argument against the committee which was then moved for, why does he come forwards and use this argument against the Committee for which I ask? (Hear hear.) The Home charges ought, as every official in India knows to be investigated (Hear hear.); and we need not call as a witness a single person engaged in administering the famine. We shall have plenty of work to occupy us during the present session. The Chancellor of the Exchequer says that if the last Parliament had existed beyond 1873 it might have been desirable to continue the former Committee. Why is it not desirable to re-appoint it now? He knows perfectly well one reason he himself gave in 1873 for continuing the inquiry was that the Committee had examined officials in India, but had not had an opportunity of examining those English statesmen, who had held high office as Secretaries of State. The Right Hon'ble Member of Shorehamn says that debates in this House are more useful than deliberations in Committees, but how can independent members like myself obtain materials for debates except from information they gather from Committees? (Hear, hear.) We want something more than official documents. We want officials and Secretaries of State to come as witnesses so that we can point to this assertion and that figure in a return and ask them to justify them. You have then placed in your hands which is after all one of the most powerful weapons for ascertaining the truth and that is, the power of cross-examination. (Hear, hear.) So far as I have been able to judge there is scarcely a single independent member, who has joined in this debate, who has not asserted on different grounds that further inquiry is necessary. The only objection has been that my motion is too wide in its scope. I have followed in the footsteps of the original movers of the Committee, but if the Government were as anxious for inquiry as they are to avoid it they could have placed words in the paper confining the limits of my motion; for instance confining it to the investigation of the home charges and to that which every one admits ought to be investigated—the question whether the distinction between ordinary and extraordinary expenditure should be maintained. Under all the circumstances, as Hon'ble members say they wish for further information, as I know that further information would really facilitate future debates in this House on Indian questions and as there have no good reasons been urged against the motion by the Government but only the indefinite plea of unfitness of time I shall ask the House to express its opinion on the motion.

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